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## Why Hanson Alright Failed

By Mildred Norman

**H**E WAS sure it was his physical peculiarities; what else could account for his failure to make himself popular among the people? He had given freely of his time and money, both in town and church affairs; he had built up a languishing society, and inaugurated various improvements in the town; he had taken special interest in the schools and the public library. But as he sat in an alcove of the library and listened to a half-whispered conversation carried on by several high school girls, on the other side of the book-shelves, he knew that he had failed. "He need not think because he has put so much money into the church that he is going to have everything his own way," said one. "He will not be put on the school committee another term," said another; "father says he is too expensive and has a lot of needless work done. He had every building cleaned, and trees set out on the school grounds. And see what books he has put into the library—histories and biographies and such things that will never be read. And he wants the library open every night, and that means more expense." This conversation was carried on with much mimicking of Hanson Alright's peculiarities. These were the very girls who had paid him so much attention and made him feel that he was a very desirable person to have in the town. Now—yes, it was his peculiarities that had outweighed all else; he was short of stature, had insignificant features and lisped when he talked; he had a mincing gait and was always dressed to a nicety.

Suddenly an indignant voice broke into the conversation; "I think the least return the people of this town can make Mr. Alright for all his good work here, is to show him respect. And to mimic his peculiarities is heartless. If I remember rightly, when he first came to town you were very loud in your praises of him; he has not changed since then."

"Girls," said the librarian, "I am afraid you are making too much noise."

There was a rustling, and receding footsteps; the girls had departed. Hanson Alright sat close to the partition next the corridor, and as the girls passed by on their way to the street, he heard distinctly, "Viola Nichols need not stand up for him; he always cut her completely; he's too much of a snob to notice a working-girl."

The librarian looked into the alcove where Hanson Alright was seated, and seeing him absorbed apparently, went out and locked the door, as it was closing time, leaving him to let himself out when he should please, as he always carried a key of his own.

Viola Nichols had not gone out with the other girls and knew nothing of the librarian's departure; she was much distressed over the girls' conduct; how terrible was ingratitude, and Hanson Alright had worked so hard, and was, she believed, a noble man, though he did have faults that made him trouble, as she well knew. She understood that these girls were bitter because they had failed to win any special regard from him, but she knew that the cause of his failure was deeper than that. He was to her an ideal man, because he interested himself in benefitting others, and the type of man she had known was the business man and the plodding working man who were too busy to give any thought to anything outside their own affairs. Hanson Alright was also refined in his tastes and loved such things as Viola loved—flowers, and all the beauties of nature; music and books; but it was true, as the girls had said, that Hanson Alright had always

ignored Viola, she being a working-girl, and he associated only with the families of the business people. The poor he befriended, the well-to-do he made his friends, and the middle class he ignored. The poor he could patronize, and they would look up to him as their benefactor, but the working man he must treat as an equal or ignore him altogether, and he chose the latter. Viola attributed this fault to his environment, his people having been of considerable importance in the social world. After the death of his father, he had bought the old Jacobs homestead in Brierville, and brought an invalid aunt to share his home with him. He had now lived in Brierville three years, and hoped he had identified himself with them, and become a power among them. He believed his

to her; she started up trembling; what could it be? Who could be there? Someone taken suddenly ill, perhaps. She looked around; there was no one to be seen. It must be near closing time; perhaps it was the librarian. She stepped around to the other side of the book-shelves, and there in the dim light, between the orderly rows of books, sat the subject of her thoughts, his head bowed in his hands.

Instantly the thought darted through Viola's mind that Hanson Alright had been there when the girls were talking, and had heard what they said. She turned to retreat, but the man heard her step, and in a voice of displeasure called, "Who is there?"

"Oh, Mr. Alright, it is I, Viola Nichols, I beg you to pardon me; I was in the next alcove, and I did not know, I thought it was the librarian. I fear you are ill, if there is anything I can do—" Then thinking he might not even remember her name, she added, "I am Mrs. Randolph's hired girl."

He was glad it was only Viola Nichols. Then he remembered that it was Viola Nichols who had spoken a good word for him when the girls were criticising and making fun of him.

"If there is anything I can do—" repeated Viola, not knowing what else to say.

"You can sit down," said the man.

Viola was glad to accept this invitation, for she had seen Hanson Alright's face for the first time without a mask, as he raised his head to see who was the intruder; haggard and hollow-eyed he had looked out at her, and the sight had unnerved her; he was taking it even more seriously than she had feared. For the first time in her life she rejoiced that she was of so little consequence to him.

He bowed his head again, and remained so long silent that she made a movement to go, thinking he had forgotten her presence. He looked up again immediately, and she said, "If there is anything I can do—"

"You can sit down," he said, and Viola sat down again, wondering why he kept her.

In a moment he looked up and said slowly, in a voice strange to Viola, "To-night, Miss Nichols, you are the only person in the town that I can call my friend."

She had surmised rightly, then, he had heard all. His words were so sad that she hid her face in her hands and wept silently.

"It is bitter," he said, presently. "I am under a curse: my personal defects isolate me."

"It is not that; believe me, it is not that," said Viola, earnestly.

He noted the tears in her eyes. "You have a tender heart, and I am paining you, but I must know; and there is no one else I can trust. You say it is not my physical defects, what is it then? Do you know?"

"I think I do," said Viola reluctantly; yet she had wished that she might help him to see wherein he failed.

"Tell me."

"You will never forgive me."

"It is the greatest favor you can show me."

"There are three reasons," said Viola; "You treat all the young ladies alike and seem to have no idea of choosing a wife; you insist upon having your own way in every case, without regard to the desires of others; you ignore the working people who are a large class in this town."

"To win the hearts of a community, one must seek how he may carry out the desires of others, and he must be a brother to the mechanics; and lastly, he must choose a wife from among the influential families of the town."

Hanson Alright sat like a statue, his eyes fixed on the floor.

"In other words," said Viola, "you must be a lover of humanity, as well as a helper." Then she repeated softly,

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### The Earth has Grown Old

The earth has grown old with its burden of care,  
But at Christmas it always is young;  
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,  
And its soul full of music breaks forth on the air,  
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, old earth, it is coming to-night!  
On the snowflakes that cover thy sod  
The feet of the Christ-Child fall gentle and white,  
And the voice of the Christ-Child tells out with delight  
That mankind are the children of God.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field  
Where the feet of the holiest have trod,  
This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed  
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed,  
That mankind are the children of God.

—Phillips Brooks



## The Coming Year-a Wish

### A Feel in the Chris'mas Air

They's a kind of feel in the air, to me,  
When the Chris'mas-times sets in.  
That's about as much of a mystery,  
As ever I've run agin!

Is it the racket the children raise?—  
W'y no!—God bless 'em!—no!—  
Is it the eyes and cheeks ablaze—  
Like my own wuz long ago?—

Is it the bleat of the whistle and beat  
O' the little toy-drum and blare  
O' the horn? No! No!—It is just the sweet,  
The sad, sweet feel in the air.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

Thine own wish wish I thee in every place,  
The Christmas joy, the song, the feast, the cheer:  
Thine be the light of love in every face  
That looks on thee to bless thy coming year.  
My own wish wish I thee—what dost thou crave?  
All thy dear hopes be thine, whate'er they be.  
A wish fulfilled may make thee king or slave,  
I wish thee wisdom's eyes wherewith to see,  
Behold, she stands and waits, the youthful year!  
A breeze of morning breathes about her brows;  
She holds the storm and sunshine, bliss a fear,  
Blossoms and fruit upon the bending boughs,  
She brings thee gifts. What blessing wilt thou choose?  
Life's crown of good in earth or heaven above?  
The one immortal joy thou canst not loose.  
Is love! Leave all the rest and choose thou love.

—Celia Thaxter.

### The Snow

"Oh, the snow, the beautiful snow!  
How the flakes gather and laugh as they go!  
Whirling about in their maddening fun,  
It plays in glee with every one.

Chasing,

Laughing,

Hurrying by,

It lights on the face and it sparkles the eye;  
And playful dogs, with a bark and a bound;  
Snap at the crystals that eddy around.  
The town is alive, and its heart in a glow  
To welcome the coming of beautiful snow."

## Christmas Gifts Of Sentiment

By Hope Daring

"Santa Claus come soon. Tell what he bring Genevieve."

"Oh, there will be dollies and dollies. A go-cart and a hammock for the dollies, a tea set and bonbons." Baby Genevieve laughed gleefully. "Nice old Santa! Baby love him. What 'ou want him to bring 'ou, Auntie?"

"Flowers, dear, and poetry, and sunshine."  
"Sunshine?"

There was a puzzled look on the dimpled baby face. Eleanor West drew her little niece closer in her arms. "Yes, dear, sunshine and poetry. Everybody thinks Auntie is too old for sentiment—indeed they think she was always too old. What nonsense I am talking to you, baby, but you do not understand. Shall Auntie tell you about Santa's reindeers?"

Genevieve gave a rapturous assent, and the story was commenced.

There had been a listener to this conversation. In the little recess from the West sitting-room, known as "the den," Genevieve's young-lady sister, Elsie, was writing letters.

For a long time Elsie sat still, staring at the half-written page before her. On her girlish face was a preoccupied look.

"What dunces we have all been!" she said to herself at last. "Well, I'll set this matter right."

Two days later there was a meeting of the "West crowd," as the four girls and three boys were known in the village. Elsie had called them together, and they met at her home. This was the same house in which Miss Eleanor West resided, the spinster occupying a suite of rooms in a wing.

As soon as her cousins were all in the room, Elsie repeated what she had heard their aunt say to little Genevieve.

"O the dear!" Caro cried. "And we never thought!"

"What she said is true," Enid admitted, her olive cheeks growing crimson. "We have never thought of sentiment where Aunt Eleanor was concerned."

"And such gifts as we have given her! Not only unsentimental but ugly!"

This last was from Rose. In the meantime the three young men were staring blankly at each other.

"What do you mean, girls?" Frank asked. "I do not understand either you or Aunt Eleanor."

"Oh, you are nothing but a man," Enid's tone was apologetic. "To be sure you are a young one, but men never know anything without being told. Caro, you explain to these boys."

"It is simple enough. At Christmas all the family have given Aunt Eleanor black-bordered handkerchiefs and kitchen towels instead of flowers and bonbons. She is a spinster, and she is fifty, but—"

Caro stopped. Rose nodded her golden head. "She is a woman. Aunt Eleanor is not sentimental, but sentiment is dear to her."

Jerome leaned forward. "I see. And to think that last Christmas I gave her a black-covered hymn book."

"And I a dozen plain hemstitched handkerchiefs,"

"I crocheted a shoulder shawl—black, of course. Papa ordered for her a crayon portrait of our Aunt Myra who died years ago."

"I say," Keith cried, "if it had been possible to give Aunt Eleanor a ghost for Christmas some of us would have done it. As it is, I gave her a year's subscription to a church paper."

"I wonder some of us did not give her a lot at the cemetery, and a sprig of weeping willow," and Enid's lips quivered. "Mamma and I were planning this year to give her black India lawn for a dress."

"See here," Caro began, "does Aunt Eleanor need these practical things we have been giving her?"

It was Elsie who replied, "Indeed she does not. Auntie has an income that amply supplies her wants and lets her do the many beautiful things she is always doing for us. We have been horrid, but a better day is coming for Aunt Eleanor."

It came on Christmas. That morning, according to a time-honored custom, Miss West found her gifts all carefully wrapped, on her sitting-room table.

She waited a little. Somehow it was not unalloyed pleasure to open Christmas parcels when one was alone and fifty and misunderstood.

"I wonder what this is. A box. It—oh! oh!" The lifting of the lid had disclosed a mass of violets, dewy and fragrant. Among them lay Keith's card, and on it was written, "Sweets to the sweetest little auntie in the world?"

"The dear boy! How did he know just what I wanted? His gift will make my Christmas a happy one."

After a little she turned to the other packages. It was indeed a Christmas of sentiment, as she found on opening one parcel after the other.

There were two boxes of bonbons, a sheaf of rose-pink carnations, a big holly wreath, a point-lace handkerchief, a pair of pearl-gray gloves, a hand-painted fan, and three books: an exquisitely-bound volume of "Love's Lyrics," "The Blue Flower," and "The Little White Bird."

Eleanor West understood. Love, that attribute is personified in the great Christmas Gift, had prompted the selection of her Christmas gifts.

## A Green Christmas

By Susie Bouchelle Wight

"I don't see how Santa can come," mourned Ray, looking disconsolately toward the tent beneath the Florida palms which was their home, except when they were all stowed neatly and compactly away in the big wagon, and driving all through the pine woods, and by the blue Gulf waters, behind the two strong bay horses—the two children at the end, the father and mother on the driver's seat, except when father lay tired and exhausted on his cot.

"No there isn't a sign of a chimney," agreed Ned. "And even if there was, I don't see how Santa would know where to find us, when we move nearly every day. I heard mother say that we would even move on this afternoon, and it Christmas Eve."

"Last Christmas we had the tree and all the cousins in our house in Atlanta," said Ray, rocking herself to and fro on her seat in the crook of a low spreading black gum, and looking with disapproving eyes at the tent, the camp fire in front, and even scowling a little at her mother who sat reading beside Mr. Pollock's hammock. "Then Grandma came to dinner, and Aunt Belle, and brought more presents, and we gave them ours."

"Well, we have sent them all something," reminded Ned brightly. "Bet the boys never saw such tarpon scales, and shells as I put in the box for them, and think of the periwinkle necklaces and lampshades you made!"

"I don't want to think!" pouted Ray. "I want Christmas time."

"Well, I guess we can sing 'While shepherds watch their flocks,' and have the Christmas chapter anyway," began Ned, trying hard to comfort his twin, but she only shook her small shoulders, and hopping down from the tree, cut him short with a proposition that they go fishing until time to help pack the wagon again.

This Florida trip had been unmitigated pleasure until the holiday time came, and its usual ways of celebrating were missed by the two children. Neither parent had alluded in any way to the day, and when the little ones timidly broached the subject, they would smile absently and change the topic of conversation. Ray's plan of stopping at a really house with chimneys for a day or two, had been gently rejected, and so far as she was able to discover they were many a mile from even a village store. Sam, the "conch," as the poorer class of people in lower Florida were called, their man-of-all-work who drove behind the big wagon in a smaller one, had taken his rusty little mule and ridden away early that Christmas Eve morning, so there was no one to tell them marvelous tales

of alligators and sharks, and the two were very lonely. After a great while, they saw him come back. He stopped and spoke to their mother, and she sprang brightly to her feet.

"Come Kittiewinks!" she called cheerily. "We must hurry, or we will not get to our new place for Christmas Eve night."

"She must have forgotten," said Ray scrambling to her feet, and wrapping her tackle hurriedly together. "That's the first time she has said 'Christmas' since the day we sent the box home."

In a little while they were trundling merrily through the pines, and somehow or other Mrs. Pollock seemed like a different sort of a person. She told the children stories of other holidays she had spent, and put so much fun and life in her recital that they almost forgot their own dull prospects for the present one. She sang the sweet old songs, that were a part of the season to them, and they did not sound one bit less lovely there in the Florida woods than when she used to sit at her piano in her own beautiful living room. But the thought of the tree in the other room, and which could not be tonight, because there was no "other room" and no chimney, came at last to trouble the small faces, as the night fell and they still drove steadily on.

"Dearies," Mrs. Pollock crept back to where they were, and snuggled her arms about them. "It doesn't seem right at all, does it?" There was just a bit of a tremble in her voice, and at the suspicion of it, Ray sat up very straight, and rubbed her mother's forehead. "Yes it is, just exactly right," said that young lady bravely. "And I think you ought to be ashamed of yourself, mother, to fret—don't you, Neddie?"

She could not understand then why their parents laughed together, and she did not try, for it was getting late, and there was no use in staying awake all night waiting for a Santa that would not come because he could not. Often before this, they had tucked themselves away to sleep before they came to camp, so in a little while the twins were in the land of dreams, and Mrs. Pollock looking at them by the light of the lantern that swung in the wagon, brushed away a tear. "Bless their precious hearts!" she said. "It has been so hard to keep it from them, but there were so many chances—and a disappointment would have been worse than when they expected nothing."

The little sleepers did not know when the wagon stopped, and scarcely aroused at all when after a while their mother led them inside their tent to go to bed, but next morning early they were awakened by such a din of fire-crackers, and torpedoes, as no one ever hears at Christmas except in the South.

They were into their clothes, and out at a bounce, then there was a whoop and a scurry, for they were camped on the edge of the loveliest blue lake they had yet seen. Great live oaks swept their limbs down to the water's edge, and back a bit from their own camp they saw another great white tent, and in front of it two boys who looked strangely like Uncle Tom Pollock's boys—their favorite cousins. Presently as they drew nearer they saw that they were their cousins, and a little girl looking up, saw Ray, and they all ran together with a shout.

"Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!"

"You twinnies sleep the latest of any people I ever saw on Christmas morning!" grumbled one of the boys. "We have been up a long time, but Aunt Annie wouldn't let us wake you, because she wanted to surprise you."

Well it was a great surprise, and all that beautiful day the five little children romped and scurried about the lake edge, with scarcely a thought of the presents. As they sat about their dinner of wild turkey, duck, and fresh fruit and vegetables, Miss Ray, who was much given to dissecting her emotions, remarked gravely, "I didn't know before how little presents had to do with Christmas."

"I am glad you have discovered that for yourself, my dear," replied her mother, and then all the older folks exchanged those provoking smiles that speak of a secret. By the by the secret was disclosed. Sam lit the lanterns as soon as it was dark, and led the way, telling them to follow where he had been watching a very strange sort of a bush all day long. The chil-

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# Merry Christmas

## A Substitute for the Christmas Tree

By Josephine Worthington

Unrivalled for beauty, the Christmas tree must ever be, yet there are occasions when a substitute seems necessary. There may be lack of room or fear of fire from the lighted candles on account of the excitement among the very young children.

Many Christmas thoughts cluster around the open fireplace and chimney—so the space above the grate and mantel seems an appropriate place to decorate. Fasten a screw-eye into the ceiling above the center of the mantel. Cut a large star out of gilt paper, mount on cardboard and fasten to the screw-eye (see "Ideas for The Household" for pattern.) To the points of the star attach chains of pop corn and arrange in festoons down to the mantle shelf. These will last several years if carefully strung on stout thread and it is one of the prettiest of decorations. The children will enjoy making these decorations—even the youngest can make paper chains. Use plain red, green, yellow and white paper. Cut in strips four inches long by one-half inch wide. Paste the ends of each strip together to make up a lot of rings from each color, then join two of a kind with white, thus forming a long chain of alternate red and white, or yellow and white, etc. Hang these chains from the mantel.

A few Christmas tree ornaments add to the effect; when these are not at hand, cut circles, bells and stars from colored paper and hang them with strong thread. Cranberries give a bright touch of color; string a few on a fine wire so as to hold them in a circle when fastened.

Get out all your pretty Christmas cards to arrange on the shelf, a picture of the Christ child in the center.

Now for the candles. The inexpensive tin holders with a tack in the bottom can be fastened into small cubes of soft wood, baby's blocks would answer the purpose. Set them on the shelf so there is no possible danger of the blaze reaching the chains.

A surprise ball for each member of the family can be made by wrapping the smallest gift, such as a thimble, knife, etc., in tissue paper till it is in the shape of a ball: wind pretty worsted over to cover the paper and hang from the shelf with the other decorations.

These may be "discovered" later in the day by the one who knows the secret.

If your mantel contains a mirror it adds much to the pretty effect of the lighted candles, otherwise put up one for the occasion.

The children can hang their stockings in front of the fireplace.

One advantage of this plan is that the decorations may remain a couple of weeks during the holiday season without interfering with the arrangement of the rooms.

## Christmas Greetings

By T. Celestine Cummings

A pretty Christmas greeting and one that would extend to every day in the year could be made from "clippings." Collect all the amusing pictures, short stories, poems, anecdotes, good jokes and puzzles, and other interesting bits of reading that you may come across in the periodicals. There should be three hundred and sixty-five of these.

You will need as many flowers, as the aim is to give to your invalid friend a suitable greeting for the day. It may be her birthday, a holiday, or other special occasion referring to some incident in her life, or in accord with the season.

The flowers needed may readily be found in the colored plates of our floral magazines or art calendars. Some of these flowers are beautifully shaped and tinted. Do not have too great a variety in the flowers chosen. The most appropriate for the use to be made of them would be roses, pansies, forget-me-nots, violets and geraniums.

Choose the flower that expresses the thought of the clipping, as roses for love and sentiment items; pansies for thought and reveries, or serious reflections.

We shall have to step outside of the flower kingdom to get a suitable token to express successfully the merry mood, as called forth by "funny" paragraphs and the like, the picture of a merry jester in fool's cap and bells. This will readily suggest other ideas in harmony with the clippings along this line.

Enclose each clipping in pretty stem green tissue paper, cut in squares and folded over handkerchief style. The four corners meet on top with the appropriate flower pasted over the joining.

For a suitable receptacle for these little packets, a basket must be pro-

cured of the right size. This will be more appreciated by the recipient of your dainty thoughtful gift, if the basket is also home-made. It will be easy to weave the basket from raffia or sweet grass. These baskets may be purchased for a small sum. Line it with cherry-red silk and tie on the handle a ribbon bow to match with the name card, and a spray of holly.

The little packets may have a further charm about them if they are slightly perfumed; just a suggestion of the fragrance that belongs to each flower. Then arrange them in sections in the order of the date on each, December, 1906, being at the bottom of the basket. Have the months divided with a spray of evergreen or other Christmas green.

For the week between holidays and the New Year, have a special package placed on top containing seven Christmas stories enclosed in holly-red crepe paper, the fastening closed with a spray of holly and the greeting card attached.

## Novel Table Decorations

Probably there is no Christian country where so much is thought of the Christmas festival by all classes as here in America, and the enterprising housewife is always pleased to find something new and novel in the way of celebrating the feast on Christmas Day.

By its uniqueness and charm even the ordinary Christmas dinner of turkey, mince pie, and the usual accompaniments will be enjoyed far more if there is a feast prepared also for beauty-loving eyes.

The following ideas will make good suggestions to be carried out for the Christmas table decorations, both for dinners and children's entertainments. A prime requirement for any of these are Christmas greens.

"The mistletoe hung in the castle hall,  
The holly branch shone on the old oak wall,  
And the barons' retainers were blithe and gay,  
And keeping their Christmas holiday."

A gift ball is an attractive novelty for a children's Christmas table. Criss-cross wire circles and tie in place to form a hollow ball. Cover it with thin tissue paper and place in the gifts, each wrapped in pretty colored tissue papers; then the outside ball covering of holly-red crepe paper is fitted on. The ball is divided with strips of holly into as many sections as there are guests, and at the bottom, ribbons attached to the gifts are run through holes that the holly hides. These ribbons are alternately red and green and reach to each plate, where the red ribbons for the girls are tied to a spray of mistletoe, and the green ribbons for the boys are attached to sprigs of holly. This ball hangs from the chandelier and under it sets the Christmas cake completely disguised. Picked out cotton is piled up in a fluffy hill over it. This glistens like snow with its coating of pulverized isinglass. A toy Santa Claus seated in his sled driven with reindeer is ready for a swift descent. As a finish to the supper each ribbon is pulled and the gift breaks its way through the paper. When time to serve the cake, the cotton with Santa Claus on it is easily taken off. The cake is protected from any lingering pieces of cotton by a covering of tissue paper.

For another style of centerpiece, have a large cake, seemingly. It is a frame work covered smoothly with white paper that has been coated over with library paste and then sifted with the isinglass. Inside a small circle of greens stands Santa Claus. The outer edge and base of cake are also circled with the Christmas greens. Ribbons attached to gifts inside the cake are carried to little flower pots and tied around them. These tiny flower pots are filled with bonbons and the top covered with cotton from which springs a little evergreen tree. This may be a toy pine or a symmetrical sprig of evergreen.

Anything in the way of a little house is attractive for the smaller children. First make a square place, then drop snow cotton all over the ground and enclose it with a border of greens. At intervals stick in little evergreen twigs for trees and arrange toy reindeer here and there. Now for the house. It may be made of candy sticks in the red and white striped variety. Purchase those with the least possible streak of white in them. Build the house in log cabin style, form the roof of cardboard in pointed shape and cover with snow. For a little gnome house use a pasteboard box of a suitable size, cut out door and window openings then cover the house with a medium brown paper and touch it up all over with white paint to represent snow drifting in the cracks. Little gnomes and pixies inhabit this house.

You will see them looking from the windows, standing in the doorway and around on the ground in the glistening snow. These little figures will make the children delightful souvenirs of the occasion as they are another ingenious way of distributing tiny gifts such as thimbles, stickpins, rings and the like. The gnomes are made of cake cut out the shape and a piece of cake cut out from their insides. In this little hollow the gift is placed in its wrapping and the opening filled up with cake. Then the figures are coated with a chocolate frosting and the features and coat buttons made with candied cherries cut in small bits and pressed into the icing.

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### Holly and Mistletoe

Hang high, hang high the Christmas holly,  
Hang high the merry Mistletoe!  
Drive far away dull melancholy,  
With mirth and laughter banish woe!

Old Santa Claus is at the gate,  
With stockings full for young and old.  
The messenger of kindly fate!  
Whate'er he touches turns to gold.

The frozen earth lies cold and bleak  
And pallid in its shroud of snow,  
Through leafless trees with hideous shriek,  
And icy chill the North winds blow.

Yet heed them not. With many a shout  
Of gladness hush the tempest din.  
Though cruel winter reigns without,  
There's warmth of hearth and heart within!

C. Mainwaring.





## Cosmos

By Victoria Wahlin

It is cosmos time again and, as I watch the buds glistening in the sunlight and growing larger, day by day, my thoughts go back, to past years and the pleasures each autumn has brought me, in the shape of these beauties which seem, to spring into sudden life, when other things are beginning to fade. It looks much, as though they gathered unto themselves, the life and strength which is passing away, from their garden companions. Too little, it seems to me, has been said in praise of these flowers. Beautiful from the first beginning, to the very end of their summer life, they certainly deserve a place in every garden. Even during the time of growth, before there are yet any signs of buds and flowers, the filmy, mistlike foliage is worthy of admiration: and it forms a beautiful contrast to the heavier foliage of the garden.

Then, again, cosmos will grow where many other things fail. I consider this a point strongly in their favor. I have grown them in a soil and position where a great number of other plants refused to grow. The cosmos not only grew, but grew vigorously and gave fine results. Of course they required a constant vigilance, on my part. When the soil became dry, watering was necessary, or the plants would die. The inside of the stem would dry up. The plant might appear strong and vigorous, but gradually a brown spot would form on the side of the stem and then, that part of the plant, which was above this spot, would be doomed. In a few days the spot would extend around the stem and then the plant would snap. This was invariably the result when too little water was given.

Oftentimes, heavy showers would wash bare the upper roots of the plant. It would then be necessary to cover these roots immediately, as exposure meant the withering of the plant.

In spite of these things, cosmos are more easily cared for than most other annuals; and for the attention and care given them, they bring a glorious reward. I have not, yet, met the person who has seen cosmos in bloom, without admiring them.

I recollect an experience I had with some cosmos plants, a little more than two and one half years ago.

Early in the spring I put some earth in a shallow box and planted some seeds. These seeds are of no consequence, since they did not germinate, but the earth had been taken from a bed where cosmos had been grown, and some cosmos seeds were in it. These germinated. The soil in the box was only about two and one half inches deep, but the little cosmos plants grew and when they were about six inches high, buds began to form; and by the time the plants had become ten or twelve inches high, the flowers opened. They were certainly smaller than the cosmos of the garden, but still, it was cosmos flowers and this, in the month of March.

## A Bed of Fragrant Flowers

By Danske Dandridge

A garden without fragrance is like a beautiful face without expression. We admire large and showy blossoms, but we love the sweet violets, the homely mignonette, and the delicious honeysuckle. Few flowers are very brilliantly colored and very fragrant also, although there are some exceptions to this rule, as in the case of some roses and a few lilies. However, the bed of fragrant flowers, although it may be the one over which we linger longest, is not usually conspicuous for brilliancy of effect.

The old-fashioned garden of our grandmothers was rich in fragrance. Then came the craze for carpet-bedding, when many sweetscented, but insignificant blossoms were neglected, for bright colored coleuses, alternantheras, cannas, and the ever present scarlet geraniums. Fortunately that craze did not last very long, and now the dear old-fashioned flowers are justly prized once more.

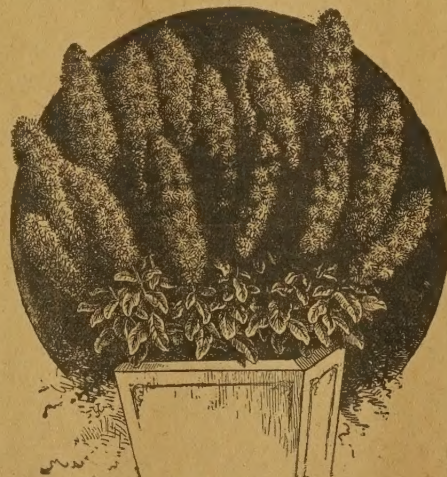
What can be more delightful than an old-fashioned garden with its rows of lavender, its beds of clove pinks, its yellow musk, heliotrope, poet's narcissus, its roses and lilies, all the most fragrant of their kind? When I began to be interested in the garden I determined to gather together all the most fragrant flowers that I could succeed with, to make a veritable garden of delights. Early in the spring the "winter-sweet" begins to bloom, opening dull yellow flowers, long before a leaf appears. This "winter-sweet," called by the dealers *Chimonanthus fragrans*, is quite a large shrub, perfectly hardy, and extremely useful for its fragrant flowers. A branch of it brought into the house on a cold day in March, will open its bells in water, and perfume the room for several days. It can be obtained from all or most of the plantmen who deal in hardy shrubs.

Very little later than "the winter-sweet" come the delicious flowers of the bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*. You may know from the name that it is most fragrant. This honeysuckle makes a large and very graceful shrub. The branches curve outward in a half-weeping manner; and, early in April, its fresh new leaves, and clusters of cream-colored, and delightfully scented blossoms begin to appear.

After the honeysuckle blooms the flowers open, a few at a time for many weeks. Then the garden wakes up, and we have no lack of perfume. There are the blossoms of almond and plum; the enchanting odor of lilacs; the fresh perfume of many violets; the wonderful mingling of scents from the beds of poet's narcissus, and lilies of the valley; the odors from the strange akebia, wistaria, the wild grape, and many other delicious plants. Then, last of all, comes the rose, and the garden is in its heyday of youth and bloom and sweetness.

But I began this talk with a desire to describe the bed of fragrant flowers, all easy to raise, that perfumes the little flower-garden proper, throughout the summer, long after the short reign of hyacinth, lily of the valley, and all the old spring beauties is over. This little bed, about eight feet square, has, for centre, a large plant of lemon-scented verberna, which did duty, through the winter, as a pot plant. Every one who has had window plants knows the lemon-scented verberna, as it is usually and improperly called. For it is not a verberna at all. I wonder how many of our readers know the proper name of this plant. I am free to confess that it cost me much trouble and long research into the depths of a botanical dictionary before I discovered the real name of the sweet flower that has so many nom-de-plumes. I have often heard it called citronalis, but its true name is *Aloysia citrodora*. It is a native of Chili, and in our climate, it will not live out of-doors, but in some parts of England, and in the south of Europe, it grows to a large bush, and is left in the ground outside all winter.

Around the "sweet verberna," we planted half a dozen heliotropes, and around them again, a border of fragrant white pinks, raised from seed. Then we edged the bed with mignonette, also raised from seed. I ought to say that the soil of the bed was first spaded two feet deep and made moderately rich with well-decomposed barnyard manure. The summer after we made the bed of fragrant flowers was a wet one, and everything in it grew and thrived amazingly. And how useful it was. It not only perfumed the whole garden, but was always our great resource when we made bouquets, or cut flowers for the house. The



Mignonette

cost of such a bed is very small. The sweet verberna, which grew rapidly, and became, before the summer was over, quite a large, much-branched bush, cost five cents. The heliotropes were six for twenty-five cents. An ounce of seed of the fragrant, single white pink was twenty-five cents, mignonette seed was twenty cents for an ounce, which was more than enough. Thus, for the small sum of seventy-five cents we had a delightful bed of fragrant flowers that bloomed through many weeks, and gave us as much pleasure as anything in the garden. We determined that summer that we could never be without our bed of sweet-scented flowers. Those who have not tried heliotrope planted in the open ground will, I am sure, be delighted with it as a bedding plant. In fairly rich soil and with a little attention to watering in very dry weather it will grow and bloom profusely until frost, and can then be taken up for the window garden. The same can be said of the "sweet verberna." Seed can be saved of the mignonette and the pinks, and so one's bed of fragrant plants can be perpetuated without cost. Both the verberna and the heliotropes can also be easily increased by slips, if one has the knack of doing this in the right time and way. And I am sure it is worth while always to have a stock on hand of these delightful old-fashioned flowers.

## Success With Begonia Seed

By H. S. Trezevant

I love Begonias better than anything in the way of foliage plants, for, besides their beautiful, glossy and variegated leaves of so many shapes, shades and sizes, their blossoms, hanging in graceful panicles amid the lovely foliage offer an exquisite array of color from



Begonia

pure white to deep, rich red. Admiring this plant as I do and unable to gratify my desire for window boxes, pots and beds of them in satisfying quantities, I determined last spring to experiment on raising them from the seed—though, I confess, without much hope of success. However, I included in my order to a reliable seed house one packet of mixed Begonia seed—still rather skeptical as to favorable results.

When the seed arrived and the packet was opened the contents resembled nothing so much as cayenne pepper. Tiny, reddish brick-dust it seemed, and I was divided between the opinions that I was about to raise either pepper plants or garden walls.

Adhering closely to the printed directions, I prepared a small box of soil about four or five inches deep, using some mellow garden soil, a little old manure and quite a lot of sharp sand, mixing all thoroughly and sifting carefully through an old flour sifter. The box that held the soil was small—about six inches square and four inches deep.

The above mixture secured a soil that was very light and porous. All being now ready for seed they were scattered broad cast on top of the soil and then covered very lightly with some of the same soil dropped thinly over them by means of the sifter.

An old hair brush dipped in water and the seed very lightly sprinkled was the next move. Over the box a piece of glass was laid and the miniature hotbed placed in a window that did not get too much sun.

Each day the box was watched and care taken to sprinkle with the hair brush so that it never dried out entirely, keeping the soil always damp but not saturated.

It was not long before I was rewarded by what looked like fine green moss on the top of the soil, but



which in a few more days took on the appearance of tiny plants. I was so delighted with my success so far that I could not resist the temptation to transplant a few of the plants at once, and this experiment was accomplished with the assistance of two unpatented garden tools—a pen point and a tooth pick! The plants were transferred to a small jar and set in soil of the same preparation as that in the box. As the days passed I set out still more of these tiny plantlets, encouraged by the evident thriving state of those first transplanted, and watching their growth was a pure delight.

It was really wonderful to note their gradual development from infinitesimal sprigs into the real plant, the lovely rich velvety touch and exquisite green leaf of the true Begonia.

The seeds were planted in March and by early summer the plants were large enough to bed out in a border on the shady side of the house. The bed was specially prepared for their reception by mixing quite a large proportion of sand with the soil, thus making it porous and well drained, and the blooms came very soon after the plants were bedded. These Begonias were the admiration of the entire neighborhood.

The blooms varied in color from paper white with a yellow center, through the variations of exquisite shell pink and deep rose to a brilliant red.

The foliage of all was very similar—of a soft lovely shade of green, being I think, the summer bedding variety, but each was a true Begonia.

Some two or three varied greatly in leaf however. About thirty plants were obtained from the seed and having brought them all successfully through an exceptionally severe winter, I am expecting great things from them this, their second summer. Several have already begun to bloom, and for once I shall have begonias in sufficiency.

Few people realize the pleasure that this little experiment gives and I would say to all, that it is well worth the trial and will amply repay the small amount of time and care that would be needed to bring the trial to a successful and pleasing issue. After they attain even a small growth they almost care for themselves and are at all stages a perpetual pleasure and never ending delight.

## Tropical Plants

By Ellen Frizell Wychoff

The products of the tropics come to us among our common necessities in these days of luxurious living. Many of us, however, are not satisfied with seeing and eating the lucious fruits. We want to see the plants upon which they grow. Seeds of oranges, lemons and limes germinate freely and produce pretty, fragrant-leaved pot plants even in the north. I know one that was kept ten years for its foliage, used as a Christmas tree, and for various decorations, when suddenly the tenth spring after the seed had been planted the orange tree burst into glorious, snowy bloom and became a thing of rare beauty. It has bloomed regularly ever since and bears delicious fruit. Since it was only one year old it has been decidedly ornamental. It was never grafted, but bloomed naturally. Lemons are



Cotton, Showing Boll

even prettier plants. Children like to plant the seeds and they have plenty of time for the perfecting of the trees.

A few winters ago my little boy planted some seeds of Malaga grapes. Several came up and the finest was saved. It is now a pretty vine with leaves like some exquisite begonia. I shall take care of it not only for its beauty and oddness, but because he will like to have it when he is older. It is worth while now, it will be valuable then.

Date Seeds germinate readily and make handsome

palms. Even at first they are interesting, and after a while are really worth a good deal.

A lady told me that in a lot of fresh green coffee she found a whole grain and raised a plant from it. Coffee is a dried berry, you know, and the plant belongs to the nightshade family. The berry is double with a husk or shell.

When the top of a pine apple is cut off it will take root if it is set in a pot of sandy soil. Treated like a rather tender cactus it will soon make an odd and pretty plant. If many pineapples are used a border for a sunshiny flowerbed can be made of the tops. In the winter such as you wish to keep can be potted. But they do not live very long of course.

To children who have never been in the south, the growing of rice is interesting. Among the white grains there are usually a few brown ones. When rice is cooked, carefully pick these out and save them. When enough have been obtained, fill a goblet or glass dish with water, cut a piece of very thin cotton batting to fit and lay it on the water. Upon this sprinkle the brown rice grains and set the dish in a warm, sunny place. The rice will not live long enough to bear, but the children can get an idea of what it is like.

Cotton is an extremely pretty and interesting plant. In the south the seeds of it are sent to oil mills or fed to cows. A few years ago they were used to fill gullies! They are easily obtained, for any southern friend will gladly slip a few into a letter. Give them rich, very rich, soil, allow one plant to a ten inch pot, plenty of sunshine and much stirring of the soil and water every other day will produce handsome plants and big, hibiscus like flowers that are first cream colored and then bright pink. The "bolls" form when the flowers fade and open in the fall showing the white cotton. In the south the flower buds of the cotton are called "squares." It is an interesting plant and a pretty one, too. One can imagine the delight of a small plant lover watching it grow in the south window of some northern home.

Sweet potatoes have very handsome foliage and if one is buried in rich, sandy soil and hung in a sunny window there will grow from it a fine, broad leaved vine. Sweet potato vines rarely bloom even at home, and they are not likely to do so when visiting, but the vine will be sufficient. The flowers are not pretty. They are, of course, made by the morning glory pattern, but they are dull purple in color and the edges are cut off straight. Sandy soil, water and sunshine will make the potato feel at home even in a city window away in the north. The different varieties of sweet potatoes have differently shaped foliage, but all are pretty and luxuriant vines.

## A Perennial Corner

By Estella Bragg

My perennial corner, although not a thing of beauty at this time, late fall, is as near being a joy forever as any thing in the floral line can be, that is for one having but little money to spend for plants.

This corner is the triangular space formed by the end of the house on the west, and the kitchen piazza on the north, so that the longest line faces the southeast.

The only drawback to this situation is that some of the shrubs reach for the sun and have to be tied to stakes. Along this front edge is a mixture of sweet Williams and hardy feverfew. This edging was all sweet Williams but some good soul gave me one plant of feverfew and its progeny are "all over the lot." They are pretty and not very presuming so they are let to grow.

Just back of this and next the house is a clump of golden leaved spirea, next one of variegated leaved deutzia (the pride of my heart) then one of blue larkspur and last a bunch of pink and white Japanese lilies.

Back of this commencing at the house again is a large one of white perennial phlox that grows as high as my shoulders, next a clump of asparagus, then one of tiger lilies and last some achillea. Notice that although there are two rows of shrubs, those at the wider end are much larger and so nearly fill this three cornered bed.

There is left a narrow strip next the piazza for the eaves are not furnished with gutters.

There is also a strip of wire netting fastened to the piazza posts. This year I had sweet peas in this narrow strip, sowed close to the piazza so the drip from the eaves did not wash them badly. Last year there were dahlias in place of peas, two years ago cosmos grew and reached the eaves, three years ago canary bird vines clambered at their own sweet pleasure and one happy summer when this whole bed was filled with asters, this strip was occupied by geraniums.

They were all satisfactory and I don't know which I liked the best for such a place. The canary bird vine would be ideal if the cabbage worms would let it alone.

There is a vagrant sweet pea vine exploring among the cosmos plants which has furnished me with an idea which may materialize another year although to tell the truth, all my ideas do not and once in a while one does that I wish hadn't.

However the true flower lover is never discouraged no matter how many failures she can count.

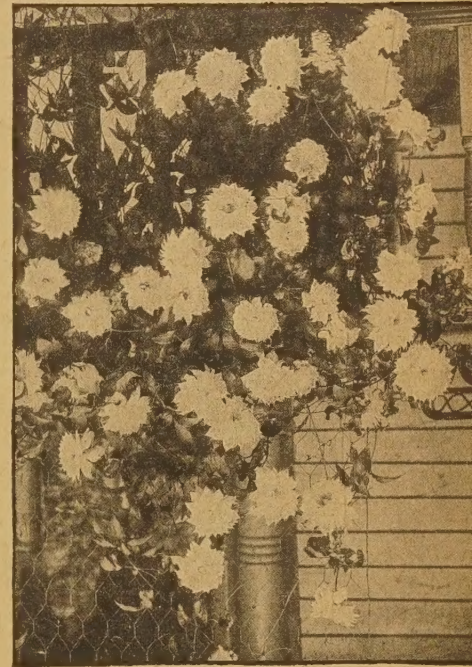
Next year she can do better and perhaps will have more money. We all long for more plants more strength and more time so that we may make more experiments. One idea have I cherished and that is to have a hedge of golden glow and asparagus with a high wire fence (hen wire) behind it so the golden glow could be tied to it as it grew, without destroying its grace, and the asparagus in front.

The golden glow grows so fast that in three years would be all one could ask while asparagus will grow three feet tall the third summer from seed, mine has with ordinary care.

## Clematis Duchess of Edinburg

By Florence Beckwith

The different species and varieties of Clematis are among the most highly-prized climbers, both for utility and decorative effects. The single, large-flowered, showy varieties, like the Jackmanni, are, exceedingly popular, and the small-flowered paniculata, with



Clematis Dnchess of Edinburg

its deep green foliage and multitude of starry blossoms has become, in a comparatively short time, an almost universal favorite. The double-flowered varieties are not so frequently seen, or, apparently, as well-known and yet they are well worthy of cultivation.

One trouble with the large-flowered clematis vine is, that sometimes when well-established and apparently perfectly healthy they suddenly droop and die. This occasionally happens when they are covered with opening flowers, and naturally causes disappointment and vexation of spirit. The cause is said to be a disease. So far as I can learn, the double varieties are not any more liable to this disease than the single flowered ones, and, even knowing the risks, I would not be willing to drop the clematis from the list of desirable climbers.

The Duchess of Edinburg is a very beautiful double variety, and its successful cultivation is not difficult. A plant procured in the fall and planted on the south side of a porch in well-prepared and well-drained soil made creditable growth the next season and the second season produced a number of beautiful blossoms. The third season, it made a rapid growth, climbing far on the trellis provided and bearing quantities of very double, pure white fragrant flowers.

Any thing more showy it would be difficult to imagine. It attracted universal attention and was the pride of the neighborhood as well as of its fortunate possessor. Few days passed without inquiries from passers-by as to the name of the beautiful vine.

The cultivation was of the simplest. Late in fall the roots were covered with fine manure. In spring this was carefully dug into the soil. After leaves started a little in the spring it was noticed that the tips of some of the branches were winter-killed. These were cut off, and that was all the trimming necessary. Certainly for ease of culture and beauty of blossoms nothing can excel this beautiful, double clematis.



# FOR THE CHILDREN

This tree was grown on Christmas day,  
Hail old Father Christmas!  
Old and young together say,  
Hail old Father Christmas!

Bright the colored tapers shine,  
Hail old Father Christmas!  
Bright today the love divine,  
Hail old Father Christmas!

Gifts hang here for ev'ry one,  
Hail old Father Christmas!  
God gave man this day his son,  
Hail old Father Christmas!

Bright and light our Christmas tree,  
Hail old Father Christmas!  
Bright and light our hearts must be,  
Hail old Father Christmas!

Dance, then, children, dance and sing,  
Hail old Father Christmas!  
All the merry chorus ring,  
Hail old Father Christmas!

## Ophelia Isabella's Christmas

By Ruth Hays

It was close upon Christmas, and all the shop windows were gay with Christmas cheer. All the day long the crowd surged up and down before them admiringly, and eager groups of children clustered closely about the glass to choose from the treasures within.

But down in the depths of "Guinea," the swarming darkey quarter of the city, everything was as dingy, as dirty and as dismal as ever. The houses were all forlorn, ramshackle old barracks, but forlornest of all was the ancestral home of Ophelia Isabella, a sedate young person of ten years, and the eldest of a family of seven. Having early developed great decision of character and determination to rule, this small damsel of the stately name maintained her supremacy of the flock right royally, in spite of an occasional insurrection on the part of "they twins," as she contemptuously designated the two whose age was nearest her own.

She was the blackest little specimen in all the quarter, with wool in the last degree of kinkiness, but, as she proudly declared on all occasions, she "warn't no Southern nigger!"

"I warn't never nobody's slave!" she would say with fine scorn. "I'm Injun!" whereupon four of the remaining six would promptly declare that they were "Injun" too. The baby, and Hannibal Hamlin, who came next, had not as yet made up their minds on the subject. The twins, being of small account at home, had enjoyed advantages of "schoolin'," which Ophelia's superior usefulness denied to her, but they were not allowed to plume themselves on that account. Their wisdom was made as naught compared with the stores their eldest might reveal if she were so disposed, and the eternal vigilance necessary to preserve this illusion was the struggle of Ophelia Isabella's life.

Her stately name was as dear to her heart as the "Injun" fiction, but she didn't insist on its full splendors on all occasions. She had another for working days, and was content to be known merely as "Phely."

Christmas never came down into Guinea, but every day the children, led by Phely with the baby, made excursions into the finer streets to see the display, straggling in forlorn little procession up and down for hours at a time. And so one day there came to Phely a wonderful scheme, an inspiration which she kept safely hidden in her own active little brain, lest the vigilant twins should "suspicion" it, and all her hopes be vain. At last on the afternoon before Christmas all her plans were laid, and the twins were solemnly assured if they would stay at home and mind the younger olive branches, Phely would bring to them mysterious treasures in reward. They proposed to accompany her and seek treasures for themselves, but Phely was deaf to their entreaties. Her mysterious errand was to remain a secret, and if they didn't stay at home, "nobody wouldn't get nothin'." This being unanswerable, the twins submitted, and Phely set forth, walking with great dignity to the corner, as befitted her mysterious mission, but once out of sight, "just a leggin' of it," as she phrased it, till Guinea with all its dinginess was far behind her and she had come to quite another quarter of the city, a region of stately houses and well-kept grounds, with all the noise and bustle of the city far, far away.

"What in the world is that child about?" said Miss Lovett suddenly. Her window overlooked the pretty little lawn of St. Mary's church close by. A light snow had fallen, powdering the grass and the little evergreens, and by one of the prettiest of these small trees, well sheltered from street view by the church, a comical little figure was busily at work. She

was dressed in a marvelous fashion, with a decrepit blue hat, an ancient red plaid shawl, and very abbreviated skirts, displaying an alarming length of lanky purple stockings, and dilapidated shoes much too large for her. What could she be about, with all those queer little nods and twists of her head which made the ragged feathers on the blue hat, and the dozens of tight little woolly braids under it stand out in all directions? Miss Lovett watched her curiously.

"I declare, I do believe it is a Christmas tree!" she said at last, as the small reveler, unconscious, retired a few steps to survey her work.

Two or three shriveled little red apples hung from the snowy branches here and there; and a broken straw basket, a much battered tin cup, an end or two of dingy ribbon, and a headless china chicken on a green standard, completed the decorations; but evidently it was entirely satisfactory, for the child nodded approval, and then a curious pantomime took place. She disappeared around the corner of the church, presently returning with mincing dignity, and stopping short in overwhelming surprise at sight of the tree, throwing up her hands and rolling her eyes in intense admiration. Evidently there was a large company present, for she bowed and smiled and shook hands right and left with imaginay guests, and finally advancing, took one of the apples from the tree, swept a wonderful courtesy to the donor and went into raptures over the magnificence of the gift. Over and over was this gone through with, as each

article was taken off, and when the poor little array was exhausted, this small reveler hung them on once more, and had her fun all over again.

"I'm going out to speak to her," declared Miss Lovett presently, and throwing a scarf over her head, she ran hastily out across the snow-covered lawn to the low hedge separating it from St. Mary's. Phely—for of course it was Phely—absorbed in her fascinating tree, saw and heard nothing till Miss Lovett called her, but she turned with a bold front at the sound of the lady's voice.

"Say, lady," she exclaimed with disconcerting promptness,—"is it anywhere near four o'clock, as you knows of?"

Miss Lovett, somewhat taken aback, answered that it was past four, and Phely turned about with alacrity. "My land!" she said briskly. "I must be a-going," and would have vanished forthwith, but for Miss Lovett's peremptory command: "Stop child; I want to speak to you," which brought her about face at once.

"What were you doing with that tree?" demanded the lady promptly.

"Oh, nothin' much," answered Phely with an indifference calculated to disarm suspicion. "Jest a sort of a-lookin' round."

"Weren't you having a Christmas tree?" pursued Miss Lovett, smiling.

Phely took heart of grace from her look and returned a faint "Yas'm."

"Don't you have any Christmas at home?"

Phely grinned in surprise. "Laws no, miss. It don't never come round our way" she answered promptly enough.

"Well, then how would you like to go to a tree—a real tree this evening in the church?" And as Phely stared in speechless amazement, Miss Lovett took a little pink ticket from her pocket and held it out.

"There," she said, smiling again. "Come to the church,—this church, tonight at seven o'clock, give that to the gentleman at the door, and ask him to take you to Miss Lovett—Miss Mary Lovett. Can you remember?"

Phely took the pink ticket promptly. "I'll be there," she said with decision. She made her queer little bow, and sped away like an arrow, mindful of the wrath of the twins, which even the shriveled red apples might not appease if she were longer away.

She was promptly on hand in the evening, having hustled the small Injuns off to bed with unusual quickness and eluded the watchful twins at last. She wore the same picturesque costume, the woolly braids further adorned by the very bits of ribbon which had decorated her tree in the afternoon. The usher to whom she presented her ticket led the way with a little twinkle in his eye, to Miss Lovett, and presently Phely was comfortably placed in a seat under the side gallery where she could see all that was to be seen, while Miss Lovett, having asked her name and age, vanished among the busy groups of teachers, who were flying about hither and thither near the chancel ordering the last touches.

The church was filling rapidly, and Phely gazed about, enchanted, at the people, the brilliant lights, and the luxuriant Christmas wreaths everywhere; and, most beautiful of all, the resplendent Christmas tree in front, brilliant with shining ornaments and myriads of candles blazing among its branches. There were heaps and heaps of golden oranges below, and apples galore; not like those on her poor little tree, but big, shining and beautiful. There were piles of books and toys, and dolls,—oh, dolls innumerable!

"If they twins knowed this!" said Phely to herself in a rapture of delight.

Presently Miss Lovett came back and began to ask if she wouldn't like to come there every Sunday with the other children, and learn to sing, but the woolly head was shaken with de-



The Christ Child

(Continued on page 29)



# Betty's First Christmas Money

By T. Celestine Cummings

**T**HE possession of her first Christmas money, earned by doing errands for the dear old lady around the corner! How rich nine-year old Betty did feel. Now with a "whole dollar" in her little pocket-book she could make any number of Christmas gifts herself. Her eyes shone with delight at the very thoughts even, of being able to give presents, but how to begin and what presents to make was a quandary to her, until she happened to think of her kind teacher.

With their heads together, it was all planned out how she could give ten or more presents, at ten cents or less a piece, and then the gifts themselves were planned out to suit the people they were intended for.

"But," said Betty, "How shall I know what mamma and papa and the rest of the folks will want?"

"Just write each of them a little note asking them what they would like as a Christmas gift, and poke it under the door of their room. Write your little notes after this style.

"Dear—  
What can I give you for Christmas? Please name three things and write to Santa Claus.

N. B. Drop the notes in the vase on the dining-room mantelpiece."

A few days later Betty looked and the answers for her notes had arrived. She was almost afraid to read them for fear she could not meet the demand on her purse. But after reading them and referring to the list of presents made by Miss Early, she knew that she could get every one, and danced around the room for very joy.



Grandfather's Calendar

Mother and grandmother both wanted little pincushions. Among the left-overs of her doll's wardrobe she found just the right pieces of silk to make these. With some muslin—one of dolly's petticoats she cut four round pieces of muslin the size of an afternoon-tea saucer, made them into bags, filled them with cotton batting, picked out loosely so it would pack into the bags nicely. Next, the covers were cut and made into bags and slipped over the filling, a finish of silk cords hid the seams, and a yard of baby ribbon was attached to each cushion with a little bow, and a rosette was made for the ribbon at the top, and back of it was a small safety pin to fasten this handy cushion to the waist. The cord and ribbon were the only expense for these cushions, costing eight cents.

Betty's grandfather expressed a wish for a calendar. She had some pretty pink envelopes left over from a birthday gift of stationery, and guided by Miss Early's instructions she cut out the fronts of twelve of them. On each square she outlined the days and the months with black ink, and with her teacher's help made a suitable little sketch for the month. Prints of Colonial times were clipped from magazines and pasted on the back. Betty had some button photos taken, and one of these she set on the first sheet—January—with a cluster of holly leaves around it. Holes were punched in the upper two corners, through which a holly-red baby ribbon was run to hang up by. The cost of this dainty calendar was ten cents for the photo and two cents for the ribbon—one yard.

Dear father wanted a good long letter from his Betty. "Write me a long, long Christmas letter," said he in his note.

That suited Betty well, as she loved to write letters. Two sheets of paper and envelope to match, in white, and a stamp were five cents, a small outlay truly for the pleasure the letter would give both to the writer and receiver of it.

The dear old lady she did errands for must not be forgotten, and this time Betty knew without consulting Miss Early, what to give. Mrs. Farcy loved white grapes and she would get her a fine bunch, but how should she present the grapes attractively. Miss Early was consulted for that. A roll of crepe paper was bought of a pretty shade of yellow and a bell-shape cover cut from it for the bunch of grapes. The stem was pushed through the center and finished off with a little bow of ribbon of the same color as the paper. The tip of the bunch showed below the bell cover as the "clapper."

The Bunch of Grapes

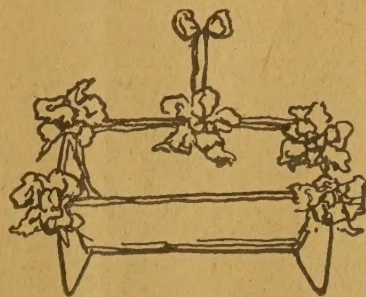
A greeting card was attached to the bow on which Betty had written in printed letters:

"Merry Christmas to dear Mrs. Farcy. From Santa Claus."

The malaga grapes cost fifteen cents, the ribbon Betty found among her treasures and as the piece of paper used was so small it was reckoned up as worth a cent. The grape bell was a beauty and Mrs. Farcy fully appreciated it when she found it among her Christmas gifts at the breakfast table on Christmas morning.

How nice of Betty to remember all the old people first. Sister Dorothy was the next one on the list. She had expressed a wish in her letter for a bookmark. This was made from half a yard of rose pink ribbon. Betty crocheted pink silk over a brass ring, run the ribbon through and fastened it in place with a few stitches of the silk. A quarter of a yard of narrower pink ribbon made the little bow on top of the ring. With the loan of Miss Early's gilt ink, Betty lettered on one end of the ribbon the greeting, "Merry Christmas." The cost of this gift was fifteen cents for the wide ribbon and four cents for the narrow piece.

Aunt Jessie wanted a little dresser tray. This was made from a long Uneda-biscuit box, lined inside smoothly with yellow crepe paper cut to fit, and fastened in place here and there with a drop of mucilage; then the outside was smoothly covered. Three divisions were made in the box by cutting pieces of cardboard to fit and covering them with the crepe paper. A pretty finish was given to the little tray with ribbon rosettes at each corner, and one in the middle of each side. Three yards of baby ribbon for five cents, and two cents worth of paper was the cost.



The Dresser Tray

Betty's brother Tom wanted a sponge holder. So a ball of heavy crochet cotton was bought for three cents and with the teacher's instructions soon crocheted into a serviceable bag. The commencement was made over a wooden embroidery hoop in plain chain-stitch. A chain-

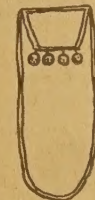
stitch cord was attached for a hanger, and the termination of the bag—drawn together—was finished with a tassel made of the cotton. The hoop cost two cents.

With what was left of the dollar Betty decided to make Christmas gifts to her three dearest girl friends and her three-year old brother. She had many odds and ends of bright worsteds and Miss Early advised making horse reins for Harry, a dolls crocheted bed for Daisy and a doll's hammock for Lulu Belle.



The Doll's Hammock

For the rein and for the latter, make a chain of forty-three stitches, turn and make a single stitch in the back loop of each stitch for six stitches, chain of two, then six single stitches as before. Skip two stitches, and repeat from beginning of row to end of chain. Repeat until you have a strip ten rows wide.



The Horse Rein

The bright colors of a Roman striped bed delighted Daisy when she brought it forth from her stocking that Santa Claus had filled.

The hammock for Lulu Belle was another delightful piece of work for Betty's nimble fingers. Macrame cord was bought for this, costing ten cents, and the brass ring needed to start the lengths of cord on was found in the tool chest. Each cord is two yards and there are sixteen lengths of these, alternating the cream color with the green. First buttonhole, the lengths on the ring then knot the strands by taking two at a time, two or three inches from the ring. Knot straight across one row, then commence the second one, spacing them an inch apart. When finished, put the cords through another ring, and with a shorter string wrap over the cords several times and slip the end under. A little silk cushion was made from more scraps.

Now as the last cent had been expended Betty was in a quandary as to what she should give Mamie that she knew would please her as well as the hammock and doll's bed would the other two girls, and again Miss Early came to the rescue. "Had she any macrame cord left?" "Yes, a few yards." "Could she find a wire soap tray around the house?" That was done also; one was found poked away as of no account. It was getting rusty, but the little girl's mother cleaned it for her and then Betty wound the macrame cord so as to cover the wires entirely and added the finishing touches of pretty bows in white ribbon from her own stock of ribbons.

When all these little gifts of love's planning were finished a happy little girl sighed with satisfaction.

## Candy.

Chocolate Caramels—Cream together one teaspoonful of sugar with half the quantity of butter; add one-fourth of a pound of grated chocolate and one teaspoonful each of molasses and milk, beat well together and boil until a portion of it dropped in ice water sets and cracks. Pour into buttered tins to the thickness of half an inch, when nearly cold cut into squares with a buttered knife.

Fudge—One and a half cups sugar; one and a half cups milk; four teaspoonfuls cocoa; a teaspoonful butter; mix well, put on stove and stir to keep from burning. Cook until it will gather into a ball when dropped in cold water. Take from stove and flavor with vanilla, and beat till hard, then pour on buttered tins.

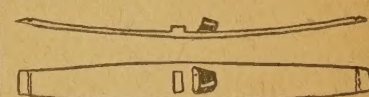
We are sure Vick's will please you during the next year. If your subscription has expired, better send your renewal at once. (See club offers on page 31.)



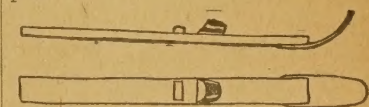
pair of skis will be very convenient to such of Vick's readers as have to travel much on deep snow. They serve the same purpose as snow shoes but are more like skates in that they permit of sliding down hills and enable one to get along more quickly. They should be as light as possible and still be strong enough to hold the weight of the person wearing them when the ends are supported, as a few ounces feel like a ton on a long day's run. The front ends should be turned up to prevent tripping. The drawings show different ways of making them.



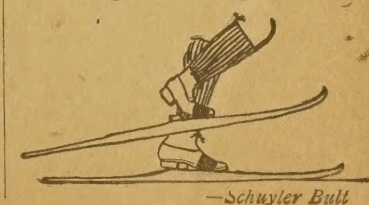
If you have plenty of tools and are willing to take the necessary time and trouble, a pair like the first illustration should be made, as they are the lightest, strongest and fastest. Use good straight-grained pine or spruce sticks seven-eighth inch thick, four inches wide and as long as the height of the person who is to use them. From the full thickness of the wood at the center shave down one-fourth inch at the end. Round off the corners and edges, soak the front ends in hot water for two or three hours and bend over a form, and leave on over night. There are several ways of fastening them on the feet, but the heel should be free and the back end of the skee should hang down when the foot is lifted off the ground as shown in the drawing below.



The best way is to take a pair of old rubbers and nail the soles where the ball of the foot comes, leaving the heel free. Be sure they are nailed strongly as if one should come off when going down hill fast a beautiful spill would result. A piece of rawhide or strap passing through a hole in the skee long enough to go over the ball of the foot and fastened behind the ankle will remove the dangers from this source. If the rubbers are not available a piece of leather will work well if put on strongly, as shown in the pictures.



Any boy can make a pair like the second picture but they are too small for any body over fourteen or fifteen years old. They are also hardly safe on a long steep hill, as they trip easily but a lot of fun can be had with such a pair. The skee in the third picture is made from a straight stick and a piece of cheesebox. These will work well but are not very durable as the cheesebox end is likely to split, but is very good as a temporary contrivance to be used only a few times. In using the skees a strong sharp-pointed stick is necessary for acting as a brake and steering when coming down hill.



Schuyler Bull



# A FAKIR'S CONFESSION

The Life Story of William B. Moreau, Leader of the Worst Gang of Swindlers that Ever Operated in America

TOLD BY HIMSELF

SECOND INSTALLMENT. This series of articles began in the October issue of Vick's Family Magazine and will continue for several months, covering most of the operations of this nefarious gang of swindlers.—EDITOR.

## ANOTHER VICTIM FLEECE.

Continuing the remarkable story of his life, the great fakir says: "We lay still at Ithaca a few days, eagerly scanning the papers, lest we should be surprised by a constable. None appeared, however. In the meantime we talked with a number of farmers who stopped at the Tompkins House, and got valuable information about the people for many miles around. We also consulted a directory, and after selecting names and finding that they were good, we sent them our nursery circulars containing fictitious references. The few who made inquiries were promptly answered by my wife in a bold hand, saying the company was the most reliable, prompt and honorable in the country.

"Our first plan was to work the victim through a farmer, who, we learned, had recently moved into the town of Dryden. It was necessary that the intended subject should not be personally acquainted with the decoy, and we arranged that I should ascertain whether he was so acquainted, and if not, to take off my hat and scratch my head as a signal for my partner.

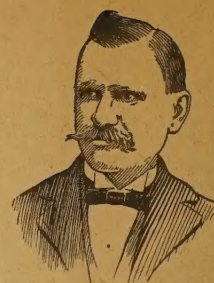
"We started out in an easterly direction in separate rigs and soon came near our intended victim. The farmer was plowing a few rods from the roadside and I drove into the yard. I called him to the fence and asked him where Mr. Jackson's farm was. He said he didn't know Mr. Jackson, that he recently moved into the neighborhood, but his farm was about two miles southeast. We talked over lots of things, the farmer eyeing me suspiciously. I got a drink of water and turned to go when my partner leisurely drove by. He was in the garb of a farmer and was a typical ox-driver in appearance. As he drove by on a walk he looked at the farmer and me and farmer-like bowed carelessly. I raised my hat to indicate that our intended victim didn't know Jackson. He halloed 'Whoa!' and pointing his whip toward me said: 'Say; ain't you Mr. Wells, that I bought those plants and trees of two years ago?' I replied that I didn't recall him. He said his name was Jackson and formerly lived in Pennsylvania, but now lived about two miles and a half from there. I then said, 'Oh! yes, now I remember you.' He turned around and drove into the yard, and after referring pleasantly to our last deal said he had wanted to see me for some time, as he wanted some trees and plants for his new farm. He said it was a pleasure to find a firm that could be depended upon, and that the Prairie Nurseries company did far better by him than they agreed to. By this time we had the farmer's mouth wide open. Bogus Jackson had driven close by the fence and I got out and produced my catalogue. All three of us pored over it and finally Jackson's order was completed. He signed a blank order and then asked how I wanted pay. I told him I would send them C. O. D., or he could do as he did on the last order, give his obligation. (Don't mention the word note if you can avoid it in the presence of a farmer; use the term obligation; the word note has a bad sound to him.) To this he agreed, providing that I gave the company's indemnity that if the obligation was not paid in six months that it would be renewed from time to time. Slapping him on the shoulder, I said, 'I will do far better by you; I will give you a chance to make more money in three months and with little or no work than you can make on your farm in two years. But, remember, you must go around quite a little and see the people of the county.' I then offered him the agency for our nurseries for Tompkins county.

"After explaining the big percentage he stared at me and said: 'Let me take that order I just gave you.' I handed it to him. Then he said: 'Gracious, man! do you make such profits?' I told him we had to charge high because of the expense, but he would have but little expense, and as our goods would sell on first sight he could easily reap a fortune. By this time the genuine farmer seemed bewildered and became very inquisitive. All at once a female voice announced that dinner was ready. Jackson and I were invited to dinner, but the former declined the invitation with thanks, saying he must get home, and invited me to go with him. Jackson stepped up to his rig to get in and I did the same.

"The farmer seemed to have a heavy heart. He would like to make money easy. I then said to Jackson: 'Are you sure you could work this whole county and do us justice?' 'Well,' he remarked, 'Mebbe not, but,' hesitating, he continued, 'I might get some one to help me.' He then asked the farmer if he knew of any one and the plowman said, while vacantly staring into space that he might do so himself. By this time we had arrived at a critical period. We had just passed one danger line. I always hated to see women appear when working 'Poppy.' As a general thing they are more suspicious and will knock a deal in the head. I said 'Mr. Jackson, you and this gentleman'—then, hesitating, I said, looking earnestly at the farmer: 'Are you well acquainted in this end of the county? If I give you gentlemen this agency will you do your best? I mean from a reasonable standpoint, as far as you can spare the time to work the territory?' He quickly replied that he could and would comply with all the requirements. I then said, 'I will close the matter up at once and you can start in with Mr. Jackson's own order.' I then quickly filled out two blanks similar to one that we published, the amount named in each being \$500. While I was writing, Jackson engaged the would-be-agent in conversation, getting him to mention over the names of persons who each should see for an order.

"By this time the blanks were filled out and Jackson signed one and handed the fountain pen to the farmer. At the sight of the pen he appeared to weaken. I then spoke up quickly saying, 'Mr. Jackson, here is another paper, an indemnity from the company against all possible loss.' This was read over and seemed to satisfy the dupe and in another minute he had his signature on the papers. Another call from the house for dinner sent the cold chills down my back. Jackson then broke in, saying to our new-made friend, 'I will come down to-morrow afternoon and we will arrange to go to work at once.' We then bade each other good-day. We drove away, as we said, to dine at Jackson's home. We made a slight detour, drove to Ithaca as quickly as possible and after cutting away the surplus paper, had the note cashed or shaved, for we realized only \$450 on it. Six months later the farmer, of course, paid it and Jackson failed to turn up. We then concluded to leave Tompkins county for a while and did so at once.

"The indemnity paper referred to was gotten up in genuine form but, of course, meant nothing more nor less than to cloud the farmer's ideas till he should sign the paper that was devised to rob him. And, there being no such concern as the Prairie Nurseries company, no redress could be had. If the farmer became suspicious and showed the indemnity paper to his attorney the latter would pronounce it good, so far as form was concerned.



Wm. B. Moreau

"That Mr. Jackson did not turn up may have aroused the suspicion of the farmer that there was something wrong. He doubtless tried to recall the wording of the paper that he signed and which the tree man took away, but could not remember anything wrong and let the matter rest till notified that a note signed by him was due and must be paid. He denied ever signing the note but could not deny the signature and, of course, had to pay it, although he never fully understood how the note was manipulated out of that agency paper. We next turned up in Jacksonville, town of Ulysses, where, after a few days we commenced operating under the title of 'The Farmers' Double Dash Churn Company,' and where we took in Andrew Wilson, the particulars of which follow."

## CHURNED OUT OF HIS MONEY.

The "Vampires," as the great swindler characterized himself and partners, and other slick rascals on the road, next turned up in the quiet, out-of-the-way little hamlet of Jacksonville, town of Ulysses, Tompkins County, N. Y. "The first day after our arrival," said Moreau, (that being the name he went by there), "we concluded that it was a fat field for our business. We had a satchel full of catalogues, and selected the 'Double Dash Churn' as the best thing to handle in that locality. We worked very cautiously among the usual know-all setters who hung around the tavern. We bought drinks and cigars freely for them, and in turn they stuffed us full of information. They told us all about every farmer for miles around, almost exact location, which we noted on a map, number of acres, whether prosperous or not, number in family, characteristics, etc. In a few days we had the lay of things down fine and were debating between us as to the one best suited to our purpose. Being strangers, we naturally aroused suspicion, and the usual curiosity was indulged in by the landlord and loungers around the hotel. We adopted a free and easy air, and to the inquisitive, who in a round-about way inquired as to our business, we said we were produce buyers, and to convey the idea used to drive out in some direction every day. By this means we learned a great deal about the people and came in contact with many of them.

### A VICTIM IN SIGHT.

"While sitting outside the tavern one afternoon a glib-tongued fellow, for whom we had bought several drinks of chain-lightning and who had just smacked his lips at the bar, in a fog-horn voice exclaimed: 'Say, mister! There is that Mr. Wilson as I was telling you of t'other day.' He was pointing to a well-to-do looking farmer, who, fortunately for us, did not see or hear our informant. Wilson went in and spent some time in the store. I joined a few setters who were perched on boxes outside the store door and in a careless manner listened to the store-keeper and Mr. Wilson, who seemed to know each other intimately. In reply to the question of how the family were, Wilson said he was practically alone, as his wife was away visiting, but he expected her home in a few days. I cast a side glance at the man whom we had selected as our next sacrifice, and observed that he was looking over a bill or memorandum and held it very close to his eyes. This, thought I, is excellent for us, and from that moment I was confident that he was our fish. He talked over crops and soon I learned what he had and what I could approach him on. Finally he went home and I and my partner went into committee on the subject of a line of action.

### A DEEP LAID PLOT.

"After deliberating we decided that I should play the role of fruit and produce buyer and my partner that of an agent for the 'Farmers' Double Dash Churn Co.,' that I should have time to talk up in detail an advantageous deal for the farmer, after which time my pal was to appear. I was to become interested in the churn business out of curiosity, and by that means get Wilson worked up to a pitch, so he wouldn't know whether he was afoot or horseback. We settled our bill at the tavern and went to Trumansburg, where we stopped that night. Next morning we started with two horses and buggies for Mr. Wilson's farm, I going about an hour ahead of Ganly, my partner's name for the time being. Finally I reached my destination and found the object of my visit. He seemed all out of sorts, and to my salute of 'Good morning, this is Mr. Wilson, I believe,' he said, 'I have no time to bother with strangers.' But, Mr. Wilson,' said I, 'I don't wish to trespass on your time. I wouldn't do anything of the kind, for I believe you to be a gentleman, sir, and so am I.' He looked at me in a sort of apologetic manner while I put on my latest improved sanctimonious look. He said, 'Stranger—I broke in saying, 'I am a stranger, 'tis true, but I won't be a stranger long, for you and I must get acquainted for our mutual good.' He said, 'Well, I was a goin' to say that I was a leetle mite too hasty, mebbe, I have been pestered all my life with these agent fellows, and I never want to see another of 'em come near me.' I said, 'On the road was like on a farm; there was good and bad on both. As far as I was concerned I was in the fruit and produce business, and I was willing to buy up whole crops, (only good crops, however, as his promised very fine,) and at the very highest cash prices. I was prepared to make a contract for crops, and as earnest to give a check for part payment in advance. We had been giving ten per cent in advance, but I told 'the house' that we had better give twenty-five per cent and buy up everything that was good, and they wrote me to do as I thought best.' Now, this was a tickler. I then said, 'Mr.—, oh! yes, Mr. Wilson, our people have the worst time getting good butter.' I then drew a letter from my pocket, saying, 'I just got a letter telling me to be sure and get all the good butter that I can get hold of, even if I have to pay gilt-edge prices for it.' This last move was made rather suddenly, as I saw my pal drive up the side hill and into the yard. Driving close to us Ganly said 'Good morning gentlemen.' I simply bowed. Wilson said, 'Good morning; well what do you want?' 'Well,' said Ganly, 'I don't want nuthin, but I reckon I've got sumthin here as both on you want, pervided you gentlemen keep keows and want to make good butter.' My bid for good butter still lingered in Farmer Wilson's ears, and while anxious, evidently, to know how to make a butter deal with me, yet he acted timid. I was in hopes he would lead in asking to see the catalogue, but he was cautious or bewildered. I knew something must be done at once, so I said, 'Any man who will aid in improving the make of butter is a public benefactor. What have you got, sir?' 'Well,' said Ganly, 'then I am a benefactor,' drawing a catalogue from his pocket. I

(Continued on page 28)



### Three Peice Umbrella Skirt 5175.

PERFORATED FOR WALKING LENGTH  
AND TO BE MADE WITH INVERTED PLAIT  
OR HABIT BACK.

The umbrella skirt is a pronounced favorite of the season and has much to commend it. It is perfectly and absolutely smooth over the hips while it falls in graceful and becoming ripples below that point. This one is among the latest and is cut on eminently satisfactory lines while it will be found appropriate for almost all seasonable materials. As shown it is made of one of the new mannish suitings in mixed coloring but broadcloth, chevrot and homespun and all the long list of cool weather materials are equally desirable.

The skirt is made with the front gore and circular side and back portions. The fulness at the back is laid in inverted plaits which can either be stitched or pressed into osition and the upper edge is finished with a narrow belt. When liked it can be cut off on indicated lines and made in walking length. Also there is a choice allowed of inverted plaits or habit back.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 7 yards 27, 4 1/4 yards 44 or 4 yards 52 inches wide. The pattern 5175 is cut in sizes for a 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch waist measure.



Pattern No. 5156

### Blouse With Chemisette 5156.

For such a blouse as this one finds many uses and it is adapted to many occasions. In the illustration it is made of taffeta with the chemisette and cuffs of lace and is adapted to between seasons wear on the street as well as in the house. While it is a waist and made over a fitted lining, the double breasted effect, together with the collar, renders it quite appropriate for out-door gowns, and a little later some slight wrap can be added to give possible need the warmth. As a waist, however, it will be found useful and desirable throughout the entire season and is appropriate for many pretty wools as well as for the long list of silks. In this instance it matches the skirt but it also can be utilized for the separate blouse that is always in demand.

The blouse is made with fronts and back that are arranged over the lining. The back is tucked to give the tapering lines, which are so much in fashion, and the front to give becoming fulness. The sleeves are the favorite ones that are full at the shoulders and tucked at the wrists where they are finished with quite novel and distinctive cuffs.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 4 1/2 yards 21, 4 yards 27 or 2 1/2 yards 44 inches wide, with 1/2 yards of all-over lace.

The pattern 5156 is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inch bust measure.

### The Fashionable Henrietta.

The shirtwaist dress made of henrietta, cashmere and the like is a pronounced favorite of the season and serves admirably for all simple occasion. This one combines a waist and skirt that are among the latest shown, and is eminently graceful and smart, yet preserves the simplicity that belongs to all dresses of the sort. In the case of the model the color is American Beauty red, and the trimming little gold buttons; but while red is exceedingly fashionable what is most desirable must always depend on what is becoming, while the buttons of the season are so beautiful that they afford a study in themselves. The waist is tucked at the back to produce the tapering lines that are always so satisfactory, at the front to give a yoke effect, and also at the edges where the two center ones meet to conceal the closing. The skirt is nine-gored and laid in a group of tucks at each seam. For a woman of medium size will be required for the waist 3 1/2 yards of material 27 or 2 1/2 yards 44 inches wide; for the skirt 10 1/2 yards 27 or 6 1/2 yards 44 inches wide if material has figure or nap; 8 1/2 yards 27 or 5 1/2 yards 44 inches wide if it has not. A May Manton pattern of the waist, No. 5171, sizes 22 to 32, or of the skirt, No. 5094, sizes 22 to 32, will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of Vick's on receipt of ten cents for each.

### For the Home Breakfast.

Almost every woman likes a tasteful and becoming jacket which can be slipped on for the home breakfast and which renders her attractive without meaning tight fit. 5153 is made after a most graceful model yet is absolutely simple and is appropriate for wash materials, for chaille, for cashmere and for all similar materials. It is also made of French flannel, in shades of soft grays, is trimmed with simple banding. The jacket is made with loose fronts that are gathered at their upper edges and combined with a half fitted back and includes the favorite sleeves of the season that are full and gathered with cuffs. For a woman of medium size will be required, 4 1/2 yards of material 27, 4 yards 32 or 2 1/2 yards 44 inches wide with 1 1/2 yards of banding. A May Manton pattern No. 5153, sizes 32 to 44, will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of this paper on receipt of ten cents.



Pattern Nos. 5163 and 5150.

### Child's Tuck Plaited Dress 5160.

There is a certain inherent charm in such simple frocks as this one that renders them always desirable and always in demand. In the illustration the material is light blue linen and the collar and cuffs are made of a simple embroidered banding, but there are various other fabrics that can be utilized with equal success, all those that are in vogue for the simpler frocks being in every way appropriate. Until really cold weather washable fabrics are given preference over everything else and many mothers like them for the entire year, but cashmere, chaille and the like are equally in demand for actual winter.

The little dress is absolutely simple and is made with front and back, both of which are laid in tucks which give a box plaited effect. An opening is cut at the centre back and the closing made with buttons and button-holes. The sleeves are the favorite ones for children's dresses, finished with narrow straight cuffs.

The quantity of material required for a girl of four years of age is 2 1/2 yards 27, 2 1/2 yards 32 or 1 1/2 yards 44 inches wide, with 1 yard of banding for collar and cuffs.

The pattern 5160 is cut in sizes for children of 1, 2, 4 and 6 years of age.

### Girl's Dress With Pointed Bertha 5155.

TO BE MADE WITH HIGH OR LOW NECK, LONG OR SHORT SLEEVES.

Little girls are apt to be especially charming when wearing frocks made with low necks and with short sleeves. They allow a glimpse of dimpled arms and throats that always is fascinating, in addition to which they are regarded as desirable from the standpoint of health; for we have learned better than to allow the children to be bundled up too closely even in cold weather. Modern, warmly heated homes render such treatment something of danger and it is found that little girls who become accustomed to such exposure as this grow the harder in consequence. The dress, however, can be made high with long sleeves if better liked. In this instance the material is cashmere and the frills are of the material embroidered in a simple open-work design but there are many others which are equally desirable. All the season's wools are sufficiently soft to be made full with success and there also are some pretty childlike silks which are in every way appropriate to the design.

The dress is made with the waist and skirt. The waist is made over a plain body lining and is finished with a becoming bertha while the skirt is straight and gathered at its upper edges, the two being joined beneath the belt. The short sleeves form full puffs but the long ones are in bishop style.

The quantity of material required for the medium size (10 yards) is 5 yards 27 or 4 1/2 yards 32 or 4 yards 44 inches wide with 1/2 yards 18 inches wide for the yoke and 3 yards of banding for the skirt as illustrated.

The pattern 5155 is cut in sizes for girls of 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years of age.



DESIGN BY MAY MANTON.

Tucked Shirt Waist 5171.

Nine Gored Walking Skirt 5024.



Pattern Nos. 4181, 4896, 5163 and 5175.

### Empire Coat 5181.

That Empire influences are to make themselves greatly felt throughout the season has become an established fact and various attractive coats and wraps are being shown. This one is among the best that so far have appeared and give ample evidence of the source from which the design was taken without including any of the objectionable features of the period. The model is made of nut brown broadcloth with trimming of velvet bands and is finished with exceedingly handsome buttons, but velvet and velveteen also will be worn while never have we had a longer list of available and handsome colors. Velvet trimming on cloth makes a feature of the season but there are braids which can be substituted if better liked. Again, buttons are exceedingly handsome and varied and are used for the effect they make as well as for prosaic utilitarian purposes.

The coat is made with the deep yoke, which gives the characteristic short waisted effect, the fronts and the backs. Both back and fronts are laid in inverted plaits, but those at the fronts are stitched with beading silk for a portion of their length while those at the back are simply pressed into position. The sleeves of the favorite ones of the autumn and winter, comfortably full at the shoulders, while they are finished at the wrists with the flare cuffs that always are becoming.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 6 1/4 yards 27, 4 1/4 yards 44 or 4 yards 52 inches wide.

The pattern 5181 is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inch bust measure.

### Circular Skirt 4896.

TO BE MADE WITH OR WITHOUT SEAM  
IN FRONT AND WITH INVERTED  
PLAIT OR HABIT BACK.

Circular skirts made full so that they fall in abundant folds and ripple are among the smartest models and are trimmed in various ways. This one is made of reseda broadcloth stitched with corticell silk, and shows a seam at the centre front with inverted plaits at the back, but the model allows of making without a seam at the front and with the habit back whenever preferred. All seasonable materials are appropriate.

The skirt consists of skirt and belt only and is fitted over the hips by means of short darts. The closing is made invisible at the back whether the plaits are used or not.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 8 yards 27 inches wide, 4 1/4 yards 44 inches wide or 4 yards 52 inches wide, or 1/2 yard less 52 inches wide when made without the seam at the front.

The pattern 4896 is cut for a 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch waist measure.

### Three-Quarter Coat 5163.

PERFORATED FOR SHORTER LENGTH.

The long coat unquestionably makes one of the smartest models for this season and is shown in many variations. The simple one illustrated is, however, among the best and includes seams to the shoulders at the front and back that give long, slender and altogether desirable lines to the figure. For the suit made with skirt to match broadcloth, chevrot, homespun, velveteen and the like all are in vogue, but the model also is a good one for the separate wrap and when so used becomes adapted to all seasonable cloakings. Velvet as trimming is much used this season and is here applied over the collar and cuffs, leaving the edge of the cloth, that make a peculiarly smart finish, but all cloth can be used if preferred.

The coat is made with fronts, side fronts, backs, side-backs, and under-arm gores, its many seams allowing perfect fit. At the neck is the regulation collar with lapels and the closing is made with buttons and button-holes worked in the fly. The sleeves are the accepted ones of the season that are in coat style but generously full at the shoulders and are finished with thoroughly becoming cuffs. If liked the coat can be cut off on indicated lines, making half in place of three-quarter length.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 5 1/2 yards 27, 8 1/4 yards 44 or 3 yards 52 inches wide for three-quarter length; 5 yards 27, 8 yards 44 or 2 1/2 yards 52 inches wide for half length with 1/2 yard 27 inches wide for the collar and cuffs.

The pattern 5163 is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inch bust measure.

DESIGN BY MAY MANTON.  
Doll's Set 4894.

### An Up-To-Date Costume.

Properly dressed dolls are always fascinating to little girls, who are ever ready to recognize up-to-date styles in the garments of their make-believe children. The very pretty little costume illustrated combines a suspender dress with a simple gimp and includes a jacket and cap. As illustrated the dress is made of pale blue cashmere, trimmed with braid, the gimp of dotted muslin, the jacket and cap of silk. The garments are all cut with care and precision, and can be made to come on and off as readily as those of real children, which fact means a very strong recommendation to the young folk. The quantity of material required for a doll 22 inches high is 4 yards 27 inches wide for dress, 1/2 yards 36 inches wide for gimp and 1 yard 27 inches for cap and coat. A May Manton pattern No. 4894, sizes 18, 22 and 26 inches high, will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of Vick's on receipt of ten cents.

### SPECIAL OFFER

We will mail patterns shown in this issue, to any address for only 10 cents each or three for twenty-five cents. The regular retail prices range from 25 to 40 cents. The patterns are all of the latest New York models and are unequalled for style, accuracy of fit, simplicity and economy. With each is given full descriptions and directions-quantity of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

We can also furnish any of the patterns illustrated in the last five issues of Vick's Family Magazine. VICK PUBLISHING CO., Rochester, N. Y.



## The Origin of Some Customs and Things in Everyday Use

By Juliet Hite Gallaher



It is said that the oldest bed known to be in existence, is a bronze of Etruscan manufacture dating back to the seventh century B. C. This was excavated at Goridon, in Asia Minor. Previous to this time there is no authority for the existence of beds.

The Etrurians built their beds in the form of exquisitely carved and decorated benches and covered them with costly draperies. Many of them were made of marble and bronze, though some were made of stone and terra cotta. They were narrow, set on legs and covered with cushions, some had two kinds of these beds, one for sleeping and another to recline upon at meal time.

The bed played a more prominent part in the lives of the early Greeks and Romans than it does today, as they reclined upon it at their banquets, when carrying on conversation and when delivering speeches. Many of the costliest specimens were made for them, some inlaid with ivory and decorated with tortoise shell, silver and gold.

The ancient zora, or corset, was first worn in the time of Cleopatra. It appeared in the shape of a stiffened linen girdle, called a zora, sometimes worn outside the tunic, tightly laced and handsomely decorated with jewels.

For about twelve centuries the zora languished, as the Greek and Roman styles prevailed—but in the sixteenth century Catherine de Medici issued an edict that all women of birth and breeding should reduce their waist measure to thirteen inches. This corset was called a "corps," and was stiffened in every possible manner; over this was fitted a corset cover made of thin plates of steel, formed in two pieces and opening on a hinge. This was used until the first part of the seventeenth century, when leather, stiffened with whale bone, came into use; these were superseded by the lace and satin creations in use at the present day.

The first reference to the wearing of shoes is found in the Old Testament, where Abraham refuses to take as much as a shoe lachet from the king of Sodom. The shoes found upon Egyptian mummies prove that shoes were worn at an early age by the human race.

The shoes worn in Venice in the seventeenth century were high clogs or patens elevated from the ground, and were called "choppines." Some of these were of wood, covered with colored leather, and many were curiously painted, of great height—eighteen inches high, often—as the more noble the wearer the higher the "choppines," and women of wealth were supported by men and women on either side, when they walked abroad, in order not to fall or injure themselves.

The chevron is inherited from feudal days, and meant a roof. A man of sufficient rank to be a non-commissioned officer was required to be a free-holder, one who owned the roof over his head. The chevron represented a gabled roof. The private owned no homes. The increase in rank for different grades of non-commissioned officers was measured by additional roofs, the sergeant, for instance, having three chevrons against one for the lance corporal.

In ancient days men had hoods attached to their outer garments, which they wore or discarded at will. To them hats were unknown. Old historians say that only the Lord Mayor of London wore a hat, and he only on state occasions.

Stow says "In the reign of Henry VIII., the citizens began to wear flat caps, knit of woolen yarn, black but so light that they were obliged to tie them under their chins, or else the wind would be master over them."

The first English light house was built by the Romans, who left so many marks of their presence in England. This was and is still the Pharos watch tower to the south of the keep of Dover Castle. It is remarkable also as the only remaining

specimen of Roman work in the castle and as the earliest piece of regular masonry now existing in Great Britain. In shape it is octagonal outside, but square inside, the inner room measures fourteen feet and the walls are ten feet thick.

Private pews appeared in the churches in the reign of Henry VIII., and were allowed only as personal favors. In early Georgian times pews were found furnished with sofas and tables and provided with fireplaces.

Bishop Eden states that in one case a livery servant entered the pew of his master, between prayers and sermon with sherry and light refreshments.

The custom which requires the wife to assume the name of her husband is involved in much obscurity.

One author advances the opinion that it originated from a Roman custom and became common after the Roman occupation of England. Thus Julia and Octavia, married to Pompey and Cicero, were called by the Romans "Julia of Pompey" and "Octavia of Cicero" and in later times the married women of most European countries signed their names in the same way omitting the "of." Some think the idea originated with the Scriptural idea that the husband and wife are one. It was decided in the reign of Elizabeth that a woman by marriage loses her former name and legally receives the name of her husband.

The Talmudic writers claim that the sea never was salt until Moses wept repentance after breaking the tables of stone. The Pythagoreans held that the sea was salt by reason of the tears shed by Kronos, father of Zeus. The old Hebrew tradition claims the ocean was originally a great body of fresh water, made salt by the abundant tears of the fallen angels. One sect of Buddhist believe that Lot's wife lies at the bottom of the ocean in a certain narrow strait and that once a year the waters of all oceans flow through this narrow channel.

The true source from which honey is derived was only discovered in later years. Virgil supposed that its delicious sweetness fell from heaven, upon flowers in the shape of invisible dew, a belief which was shared by Pliny and Galen—but honey was known from earliest times. The Scriptures make frequent mention of it, also pagan writers, by whom it was termed "the milk of the aged" and was believed to prolong life. It was used not only in embalming the body after death, but in all kinds of pastry, cakes and sauces, of which the fame of the Attic honey has been transmitted in prose and verse to the present day. Pythagoras subsisted wholly on bread and honey and lived to be ninety years of age.

During the administration of Lord Sandwich, in England, he became deeply engrossed in a protracted gambling game and played for twenty-five successive hours without food. Suddenly recovering himself he asked for anything that might be had to eat. This happened to be a slice of cold beef and two slices of cold bread. He placed the beef between the bread for expedition, and proceeded with his game, devouring the first sandwich with great relish.

When one Monday morning the Mayflower drifted into Massachusetts Bay in Nov. 20, 1620, and the ladies were rowed to the shore, the first thing they did was to build fires and heat water, that they might wash their clothes. Little did they think, when spreading their clothes out on the trees and snow to dry, that their example would be followed in the future by American housewives and Monday be adopted as their regular wash day.

The Jews of Asia Minor and Palestine have a queer tradition, which tells of a remote period in their history, when every Israelite was equipped with three perfect eyes. The two main ones were situated in the front part of the head, but the third was in the back part of the head, just above the nape of the

neck in the edge of the hair. The latter was closed by Divine injunction on the day Moses was given the tables of stone on Sinai. The day those tables were renewed God commanded that no man should be seen in the vicinity of the holy mount and Moses supplemented this command by ordering the faithful, who were in the valley, to turn their heads from the mountain. This they did but uncovered the eye situated in the back of the head. Moses noticing this asked God to close their third eye, so since that day the Israelites have had to depend upon two eyes.

Barbara Uttman, of Saxony, invented the process and apparatus for manufacturing the beautiful handiwork known as point lace, which has since given employment to millions of operators. The process is slow and difficult to learn, but her ideas have been incorporated in the construction of the machinery by which the lace is produced at lower rates.

Previous to 1463 there was no such thing as breakfast in England; there were only two meals a day, dinner from nine to noon, and supper from five to seven. About a hundred years ago cold meats and fish began to be served in the mornings and from this arose the habit of serving three meals, beginning with what was called breakfast.

## A Christmas Frolic.

BY MARY C. HARDY.

What would Bessie have thought if she had only known what her dolls were doing? She had put them all away in a large box before she had her supper. But she first dressed them in their nicest clothes, for was not to-morrow Christmas Day?

Mable Corinne was her large wax doll, and she dressed her in a pretty little dress of pale blue trimmed with ruffles of white lace. Put her little white fur cape around her shoulders and pinned her blue hat over the sure enough yellow curls.

Then Bessie gave a sigh of relief, for Mable Corinne was a beauty, and it always took more work to dress her than it did both her other dolls. Now Susie Belle and Katie Lee, who were twins, were only china dolls with their painted hair always in curls; and their shoes and stockings always on. So she could dress them in quite a short time. Bessie got out the twins' red woolen dresses trimmed with gold braid, and their little Red Riding capes and hoods. Then when they were all ready she put them in a box on the table so that they would be sure to see Santa Claus when he came that night.

Then Mamma said that it was time for Bessie to have her supper and go to bed if she wanted Santa to come at all. So Mamma blew out the light and carried Bessie away with her.

The room was very still for a long time, and the fire light shone on the box of dolls staring with wide open eyes at the ceiling. All at once Mable Corinne broke the silence by stretching herself and saying in a little sharp voice: "Do you suppose he will forget us?"

At this question Susie Belle and Katie Lee both rolled out of the box on the table. "No he won't," said Susie Belle, "Santa Claus don't forget his promises; and I know Mrs. Santa wouldn't let him."

"Well, I wish he would send for us then," said Mable Corinne.

Just as she finished speaking there was a noise on the roof and soon a little man dressed in a fur coat and cap sprang into the room.

"Are you ready to visit Mrs. Santa Claus," he cried. All three of the dolls jumped from the table, they were in such a hurry for the trip.

"Yes indeed, we are ready," said Mable Corinne who always did most of the talking. "But how are we to get up the chimney? I am sure I never heard of a doll climbing a chimney, and then we would get so dirty," she pouted.

"That's all right," said the Little Man, "I'll take you up. Here just let me put my arm around you."

The Little Man caught Mable Corinne around the waist and with a spring and a jump they both went clear up the chimney onto the roof where there was a little sleigh filled with soft fur rugs and drawn by two reindeer. The Little Man

tucked Mable Corinne down among the furs so that she could not get cold. Then he went back for Susie Belle and Katie Lee.

When they were all in the sleigh the Little Man picked up the reins, the little bells on the reindeer's harness jingled; and away they went. Up and up they went and it did not seem but a minute to the dolls before the reindeer stopped at a large gate. And the Little Man said: "Here we are."

They all got out of the sleigh and the Little Man carried them to Mrs. Santa who said: "You are welcome my dears. I have something here I hope you will enjoy."

Then she carried them out to a large hill where there were just lots and lots of dolls. Mrs. Santa Claus had invited the dolls all over the world to come to see her while Santa Claus was off on his trip to see the children.

"I thought you would like a toboggan ride my dears," said Mrs. Santa.

Sure enough there was a nice wide toboggan slide made of glass, and all the little sleds had rails around them so no doll could fall out.

"Oh how nice!" cried the dolls.

"Don't you want to take a ride," said Mrs. Santa, "here's a toboggan all ready for you."

So Mable Corinne and both the other dolls got on the toboggan and the Little Man gave it a push; and down they went with a rush. All three of the dolls screamed, but how they did enjoy the ride! When they reached the bottom of the hill the Little Man said: "Now just step into this coach, and you won't have to walk to the top of the hill."

What a nice ride it was as the four white mice ran up the hill with the little glass coach, while the dolls rested inside on the pink velvet cushions.

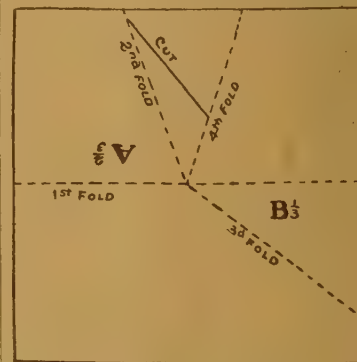
Then Mable Corinne and the others took another toboggan ride, and then another. I don't know when they would have tired of it, they were having such a nice time. But a bell went ting-a-ling and then all the dolls went in to supper. Where they had all the plum-pudding and cake they wanted.

Then Mrs. Santa told them good-bye, and they all left until another Christmas night.

The Little Man took Mable Corinne, Susie Belle, and Katie Lee and put them in the sleigh, and carried them safely home.

## Pattern for a Star.

Take a square of paper—double for first fold. Fold the second so that A shall be  $\frac{3}{4}$  and B  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the angle. Fold back B for the third fold. Double A for the fourth fold. Cut on the marked line for the star. It would be well to cut out the



above pattern and paste it on a large sheet of paper then extend all dotted lines. To make a larger star move the line marked "cut" farther from the center and keep it parallel with the one shown on the pattern. J. W.

Can you explain this? Take the number of your living brothers; double this amount; add it to three; multiply the result by five; add the number of living sisters; multiply the result by ten; add number of deaths of brothers and sisters; subtract 150 from the result. The right hand figure will be the number of deaths; the middle figure will be the number of living sisters; the left figure will show the number of living brothers.—Farm Journal.





## GOOD IDEAS

NOTE—We offer a yearly subscription for each contribution to this department that is found acceptable for publication. Write your "ideas" on a separate sheet of paper and address to "Good Idea Department." Send a two-cent stamp if you want MSS. returned.—Editor.

### A New England Plum Pudding.

This style of plum pudding is a favorite with people who prefer a plainer one than the usual rich mixture.

Heat a cupful of the best quality molasses in a bowl set in a pan of hot water, add half a cupful each, of lard and butter. Sift in with a cupful of brown sugar, half a teaspoon each of allspice and cloves, a level teaspoon of cinnamon, half a grated nutmeg and half a teaspoon of ginger. Stir into the hot mixture, and when thoroughly blended mix in two cups of flour sifted twice with a teaspoon of baking powder and half a cupful of fine bread crumbs. Sweeten two-thirds cup of sour cream with a little soda, a good pinch will be sufficient. Beat hard for three minutes then stir in a cupful of seeded raisins and two tablespoons of chopped candied orange peel, floured, to keep the fruit from sinking. Turn the pudding into a square pudding mold well greased. Steam for four hours continuously. Allow the pudding to cool in the mold. This kind of pudding is always made the day before along with many other goodies for Christmas, and is equally good warmed over, as when freshly boiled. The reheating in its mold will take about an hour. Unmold on a flat silver or other pretty platter and garnish with marshmallows on the top and sides. The marshmallows will stay in place on the sides if you press them slightly into the warm pudding. Circle the platter with a wreath of holly and stick a spray of it in the top.

A liquid sauce to serve with this pudding is simply made. Beat together two eggs, a cupful of powdered sugar, and a tablespoon of butter for five minutes. Add the juice of an orange, a tablespoon of lemon juice, a sprinkling of nutmeg and a cupful of hot water. Boil for five minutes slowly. It should be clear and of the consistency of thick cream.

A delicious hard sauce which many prefer, is made as follows. Use butter for the sauce that has not been salted or if that is not handy, work out the salt with the butter ladle. Beat half a cup of butter with two cups of powdered sugar, or granulated will do. Beat until very creamy, adding two tablespoons of cream, the unwhipped white of one egg and another cup of sugar. Flavor with some fine cider, and set in a cold place to chill. When ready to serve turn into a glass dish and with the handle of the spoon shape lightly into a mound. Then with the tip of the spoon make little dents all over, pineapple style, sticking in the top of the cone some spiky pineapple leaves cut smaller to suit the size of the sauce shape.—T. C. C.

### The Sand Bag.

One of the most convenient articles to be used in a sick-room is a sand-bag. Get some clean, fine sand, dry it thoroughly on the stove, make a bag eight inches square of flannel, fill it with dry sand, sew the opening carefully together and cover the bag with cotton or linen cloth. This will prevent the sand from sifting out, and will also enable you to heat the bag quickly by placing it in the oven or even on top of the stove.

After once using this you will never again attempt to warm the feet or hands of a sick person with a bottle of hot water or a brick. The sand holds the heat for a long time, and the bag can be tucked up to the back without hurting the invalid. It is a good plan to make two or three of the bags and keep them ready for use.—W. R.

### Things to Remember.

How to Breathe.—When not talking, the lips should be well closed and the breathing should be entirely through the nostrils. In order to reach all points of your physical system, try slow, measured, deep breathing, that covers the entire lung surface; when once you have established this habit of breathing, you will

realize the benefits that occur from a healthy condition of blood, for the manner in which the inspired air comes in contact with the blood in the lungs, is of the utmost importance to every vital process. The perfection of breathing depends upon the purity of the air and the manner of inhaling it.

An Excellent Mouth Wash.—Add a teaspoonful of tincture of myrrh to a cupful of warm water. It will harden the gums, sweeten the breath, and if teeth have been extracted, will heal the mouth.

The Way to Get Exercise.—Women cannot get the proper kind of exercise by performing household duties, for physical exercise, in order to be beneficial, should be taken with the mind at rest, and the woman who cannot spare the time from her household duties for systematic exercise is the one most in need of it.

A quick brisk walk, of thirty minutes duration, daily in the open air, should be considered absolutely necessary to the health of all housewives. And the anæmi girls should stay out of doors, in the fresh air as much as possible, walk slowly and practice deep breathing, this, with the proper diet of milk, farinaceous foods, etc., will restore the bloom of health to the palest complexion, which is a sign of anæmia. Walking in the open air is the best exercise woman can engage in for the development of her physical charms.

For Chapped Hands.—Delicate skins are very sensitive to the approach of cold weather, and unless proper care is taken to prevent it, it will chafe the hands almost before one realizes the fact. If persons who are troubled with chapped hands would be careful to wash, first with warm water, to cleanse, then immerse in cold water, to harden the flesh, dampen with three drops of glycerine, dissolved in one teaspoonful of water, and wipe perfectly dry, they would be surprised to see what soft, smooth hands they had.

For the Eyes.—If the eyes lack lustre, it is an indication that you need antidyseptic medicine; for sick headaches, accompanied by dancing before the eyes of sparks, by taking a seidlitz powder, tying a towel over the eyes and remaining in a darkened room. For tired eyes, try bathing them in hot water, and resting them.

The Well Kept Hands.—A piece of pumice stone, to rub off ink and other stains, should be found on every toilet stand, also a lemon to rub on the nails and under them, to remove any stain or discoloration. Then wash the hands perfectly clean, rub with almond cream, in order to make plump and healthy looking, scrape the flesh back from the nails, trim properly and polish with a chamois polisher. This treatment will insure well kept hands.

The Value of Charcoal.—Charcoal is one of the best known purifiers of water, which if allowed to percolate through it, will be freed of all foreign particles or animal organisms. For sweetening the breath it has no equal, and when used for cleaning the teeth it removes fungous growths that tooth powder fails to reach. If frequently applied to a burn it will relieve the pain.—J. H. G.

### Old-Fashioned Seed Cookies.

One cup of butter or cottolene; two cups sugar; three cups flour; four eggs; one-half cup sweet milk; two teaspoons baking powder; one-fourth teaspoon salt; two tablespoons caraway seed.—R. P.

### Cooked Salad Dressing

Four eggs beaten till mingled but not frothy, four tablespoonfuls of melted butter, four tablespoonfuls each of vinegar and water; put all together into a double boiler and stir from the time it is placed over the fire until it is as thick as very rich cream; do not allow it to reach

the simmering point or it will curdle. Remove from the fire and add one teaspoonful of salt, one-fourth teaspoonful of white pepper. Mustard is added for other than fruit salads. This dressing will keep for weeks on ice, or in a cold cellar.—L. H.

### Domestic Hints.

Are the window-panes and looking glasses fly-specked? Then use a little alcohol on them. It does wonders in cleaning and brightening glass of any description. If the carpet is wiped over occasionally with a cloth wrung out of a solution of alum water the colors will stay bright for a long time. When the sinks become dull and dirty, as they are apt to in warm weather, wash them with turpentine.—H. R.

### Spoon Corn-Bread.

Take two well beaten eggs, add two cups of sweet milk, one cup of corn meal and one cup of boiled rice, also one tablespoon of butter, one teaspoon of baking powder and one of salt. Pour in pan and bake in moderately hot oven.—F. Y.

### Cream Puffs.

One cup butter, one cup hot water; put into a sauce-pan over the fire and stir in one cup sifted flour, a pinch of salt and one of soda. Stir till it is a velvety mass and set aside to cool. When cool stir in three eggs separately and when perfectly smooth drop from a spoon into well greased tins leaving quite a space between. Bake one-half hour in a moderately hot oven. Cut a slit in the side of each and with a small spoon, fill with the following custard:

Put two cups sweet milk into a double boiler. Add one cup sugar, two eggs, a pinch of salt and flavor with vanilla. Stir till it boils, then set away to cool. Very nice for luncheon.—C. M.

### To loosen the Tops of Self-Sealer Cans.

Hold the can tops down in boiling water and the lid will be found to come off easily.—A. G.

### Graham Gems.

Two cups graham flour; two teaspoons baking powder; one tablespoon sugar; one egg; one tablespoon melted butter, salt. Enough milk to make a batter about as stiff as for cake.—E. D.

### A "Scrap-Box" and Stool Out of a Cheese Box.

Oil and decorate the outside of the box and put on one coat of varnish. Then take some pretty cretonne and make four to six little bags about a foot square and tack the tops (hemmed) of the bags on the inside of the round box with brass headed tacks. Cover the bottom with the same goods. The pockets should meet so as to cover the inside. Now we have all these pockets and the center to put different kinds of pieces in and yet we may have still another one or two in the cover. The top of cover may be padded and then covered with cretonne. A cushion of the same to go with it will make the corner near the sewing machine a "cozy" one to sew in when you are sewing by hand and making button holes.—M. L.

### Fried Bananas.

Peel nice sound bananas and cut in slices. Fry slices in with beefsteak or butter, until brown. Sift powdered sugar over them and serve at once.—W. L. A.

### Apple Pudding.

Three-fourths cup of sugar; one cup sweet milk; three tablespoonfuls melted butter; three heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder; one egg; flour enough to make a batter. Take a dish and slice about half full of apples, and spread batter over; bake until done. To be served with sauce.—C. A.

### Lemon Mincemeat.

Six large lemons, juice and the grated yellow rind; to this are added two pounds each of chopped apples, seeded raisins, currants and sugar; a pound and a half of beef suet chopped fine and a quarter pound of candied lemons, orange and citron.—S. A.

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# THE "MOTHER'S MEETING"

"God could not be everywhere—so He made Mothers."

By Victoria Wellman.



NOTE—Letters requesting private reply should be addressed to Victoria Wellman, 5625 Prairie Avenue Chicago, Ill. All letters accompanied by a stamp will receive reply in due order.

"The period of life is brief—  
'Tis the red of the red rose leaf;  
'Tis the gold of the sunset sky;  
'Tis the flight of a bird on high;  
But you may fill the space  
With such are infinite grace  
That the red will tinge all time  
And the gold thru the ages shine  
And the bird fly swift and straight  
To the portals of God's own gate."

Special Note—All my friends and readers are requested to specially notice the change in my address to 5625 Prairie Avenue, Chicago. As every one of the letters are precious to me and whether it be a request for advice or some case needing sympathy, or the report of some new made mother's triumph or a friendly sisterly encouraging epistle (all of which I have filed carefully and reread as often as "blue days" create the need) or a word about the progress of some of the growing band of Heartsease Babies, all of whom are dearer to me than you imagine—of course you must realize why I urge you to notice the changed address.

Stay, stay at Home, my heart, and rest,  
Home staying hearts are happiest,  
For those that wander, they know not where  
Are full of trouble and full of care,  
To stay at home is best.

The instinct of all human hearts is for home life and in most of us holidays and their store of memories seem to be especially dedicated to home life and a rare exotic in this sentiment when it blooms forth unexpectedly amid the repressions of hotel or boarding house life. Looking back over years to the shining candles or the dainty trimming of childhood's birthday cakes and the glories of glistening Christmas trees, or dwelling tenderly on other anniversary memories we can but recall the beneficent shelter of home. Even though there are shadows about that memory due to some privation hardly endured, some abuse of childish confidence, some family secret whose thorniness pricked the sensitiveness of everyone, despite all shadows the memory of childhood's home is sweet.

It is most lamentable that so many because of the demands or needs of their occupations must frequently alter the home scenes and by constant uprooting prevent that clinging affection for some dear spot called Home, substituting a semi-gypsyish ideal of cosmopolitan type, many houses and all alike are home. To the fortunate child it is possible in after years to muse thus: "In this corner we always stood the Christmas Tree, and it was such fun for the older ones to help trim it." "Here was a marker we used each birthday to note how we had grown." "Mother's chair always sat here and we were all cuddled as babies as she rocked in it."


Ah! 'tis worth while to labor, plan and sacrifice to earn the right to proudly say "Our Home." Day by day good or bad fortune weaves a web of home memories to enmesh our affections and to influence our children's future actions. Mothers have their peculiar mission indicated along these lines, to shape environment by quiet, gentle persistency until even bad prenatal inheritances may be lived down, using methods suited to their time, strength and mental ability, molding childish ideals of honor as a measure for any art, love as the greatest wealth, truth as the one thing above price, charity as the natural cure for selfish, obstinate, or over cynical souls who so often pose as judges, and above all creating an idea in each child of self responsibility for thoughts or deeds. "No place like home" for this angelic mission, none so fitted as those mothers called to be madonnas; and when back of such appears the firm, strong, true-hearted man—husband yet lover, father yet "chum"—few cases of heredity can defy the magic of good sense, tact, patience and love, this happy union of hearts and minds produces.

Christmas always recalls more vividly the tender-eyed, yet wondering Madonna of old; but we of today are no less called to recognize the Christ-like in our little ones and to assist not hinder its growth. Shall the Christmas spirit mean only get or shall it be also give? Do we teach our children selfishness (that poison of great or small souls alike) as our secret foe to be overcome all 'tis possible or the exquisite happiness of unselfishness which maketh rich the soul? Well may we, like Mary, ponder on these things for lo! to us is given much and much is expected of us again. Not merely the bodily health of a happy troop of little animals (though few ever learn all the import of the healthy body in its relation to the soul-life within) but the wise leading and shaping of that wondrous form of mind, the individual, and above all the assistance by our daily example and loving wisdom of the struggling spirit which yearns to rise and despairs so bitterly over its failures—even in early childhood in sensitive natures.

There are some helps for mothers now taught as facts and full of the forcefulness of scientific demonstrations, the result of deep study by wise and scholarly men and women which mothers-to-be are enviably blest in being able to know (if they will) from the first experience onward. I refer to the power of suggestion merely in passing as I have seen some proofs of its helpfulness. I beg young mothers to realize the vital value of prenatal endowment for your first born. You will see as years roll by the reason for my claim that the impress of that child's nature upon your little family will be so powerful as to cause you either much woe or great peace and joy. The unchastened spirit of young wives is often too incredulous, frivolous, impatient and selfish! It needs to bear a cross of burdens for others; it needs to wear a crown of thorns for a time. Physical neglect, mental indifference to the right uses of an expectant mother's will-power, fretful attention to personal and temporary diseased conditions, a gossiping tongue, a brain given to selfish aims, a general state of mute rebellion against womanhood's "troubles" and useless wishes for a fanciful freedom supposed to be the lot of all men, these are some of the ways by which evil rises and the stamp thereof is on the plastic brain cells of the unborn. The reward is always sure for wasted days and unless your child is, by God's merciful dispensation, also moulded by the strong attributes of an ancestor whose virtues were marked, or a will accompanied by wisdom (a combination of one parent's will and the other's mental ability) and, if one of these, may also be a flower meant for early plucking for God's garden, you may suffer sorely for long years in daily efforts to curb or counteract the strong natural tendencies to do or think wrong implanted by your own careless and impious modes of prenatal life.

Dear hearts—never is religious life so comforting, never is it so grandly useful as when the mother-to-be takes up the burden sweetly and to her joy finds it slowly revealed as a divine blessing. As an aid to prenatal culture I commend to you the truly christian life, i. e., the self-respecting, well balanced but unselfish love life. Do not hope for as good results if your marriage is not true mating but do believe and labor to learn that you can, in eight cases in ten, turn that marriage into a mating; for ignorance of many physical laws lies back of some "failures" which are ended by

(Continued on page thirty-five)



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## Heart Talks

BY MRS. CATHERINE WALTER

NOTE: The object of this department is to place all subscribers who are in need of sympathy and advice in communication with a woman of large experience and warm sympathies who will give each case her careful thought and consideration.

All communications for this department should be addressed to Mrs. Catherine Walter, 168 E. 61st Street, New York City.

"Christmas comes but once a year, And when it comes, it brings good cheer."

Dear Friends:—A Merry Christmas to you all, and I hope that all who read this may echo the wish and pass it on to those who come in their way; and that all of us who are able may endeavor to bring good cheer—which, literally, means good food as well as good wishes, to any one who may be less able than we are to provide the necessities of life.

A great deal of time, and energy, and thought, and money is wasted in making useless trifles, which, doubtless, show the good will of the giver; but it seems to me that if the same amount of time, etc., were spent in making or procuring something that would really be of use, especially to those who are less blessed with worldly good than ourselves, it would be far more sensible.

Children, of course, think that Christmas was instituted for their special benefit, and it is the one season of the year to which they look forward with the greatest anticipation. But, aside from the glamor of the Xmas tree and the decorations which make a gladness in the heart of a child—and of those of us who are not too old to remember our childhood, the love of Xmas is a purely selfish feeling, the very last feeling that the season should engender, for the Christmas Child came to teach us unselfishness. Children, and many grown ups too, for that matter, are only thinking of how many presents they are going to get for Xmas; and when they give a present it is often because they expect one in return. All this is purely selfish. And yet, even selfish presents promote a certain good feeling, but I want to see things done on a higher plane. It seems to me that every child should be taught to help some other child and to take a personal interest in it. Children are really made selfish by their elders, and yet how hateful a selfish person is, and how dissatisfied. We can not be really happy if our interests are centered in ourselves, and the more we share our blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters the greater will be our own happiness.

In the play of Mrs. Wiggs and the Cabage Patch, Mrs. Wiggs, who is in the most extreme poverty, after she has gotten her boy as tidy as she could for Sunday school, makes him repeat this verse,

"Count your many blessings,  
Count them one by one."

Most people would think she had nothing left to be thankful for, but she cultivated a thankful spirit. There are plenty of Mrs. Wiggses in the world, and we should try and give them something to be thankful for.

An instance of the kind was brought to my notice lately in the following letter, which I hope you will all read, and if any of you can deny yourselves a few cents you might not only derive benefit, yourselves, by reading one of those little books, but would be giving a Christmas gift to one who, in spite of his sad affliction, still thanks God for the blessings that are left him.

I know there are hundreds of unselfish mothers among my readers who are always denying themselves for the benefit of their children and families, but I want us all to take a wider outlook, and think of the mothers and fathers who are unable to provide the necessities—to say nothing of the luxuries of Christmas-Tide. Church Christmas-trees are all right, and they are the only Christmas some children have, but a warm pair of gloves, stockings, a dress, or anything given directly by yourself or your children with a few words of greeting will do both yourself and the person to whom you give it a great deal more good than a Sunday-school box of candy off a Xmas-tree. Have the candy and the tree also, but do not let that be the extent of your thought for others outside of your own family.

—Mrs. W.

## A Letter from Wellington, Mo.

My dear Mrs. Walter:—Won't you, in Jesus name print this letter for me in your Magazine. I am a bed-ridden, helpless invalid. Been lying in one position for twenty years. My mother, all I had to depend on for support, went home to Heaven nearly four years ago. Then I was forced to earn my own living, helpless tho' I am. I have succeeded so far by writing books, which I publish at my own expense. Now and then, I find a good-hearted Editor who will allow me to tell his readers of my books. Only for this, I could not have been self-supporting.

It occurred to me that doubtless you, too, would allow me space for a short letter in "Vick's Family Magazine." The books are titled as follows: "Seventeen Years in a Mattress-Grave," "The Story of My Life," price 15 cents. "Ideas of an Invalid," 30 cents. "His Mysterious Way, an illustrated Story," 50 cents.

These books do not contain a tale of woe. I am an optimist. I believe there is a bright side to every trouble or sorrow. Great and lasting good can be gotten out of every trial. In short, we can turn our trials and sorrows to blessings, if we will. There is no good in whining and complaining. I believe that God knows best and that whatever happens is for your good. We cannot see it now, but some day we will know and understand that all God's ways were right. The Omnipotent One is too wise to err. Be patient and hopeful; smile through your tears and try to say, "Not my will, Father, but Thine be done."

While I have lain perfectly motionless for twenty years, and haven't but one finger and thumb, and one eye left to me, I can yet praise God for my blessings. I still have one eye, can hear and talk and write a little. My body is dead but brain and heart are alive.

I send our editor my circular which contains references as to my honesty. May God bless you all!—Thos. F. Lockhart, Wellington, Mo.

## Letter from "Bachelor."

Dear Mrs. Walter:—I do not think it is fair that the girls should get all the letters, so I am going to write and tell you some of my troubles and ask your advice.

What would you do in this case? I am an only son, and my mother thinks there never was another like me, although she does scold sometimes because I am not very thoughtful. But then, she has herself to blame, for she has always waited on me, and as people say, made a baby of me, which sometimes makes me feel like a fool. But I know mothers often cannot realize that their sons and daughters are ever anything but children. I do not need to marry for a home, but I sometimes feel as if I ought to have my own home, especially as everyone is always hinting at my taking a wife, and wondering why I have not done so before. I have liked several young ladies very well, but when it came to marrying them, that was a different matter. One girl is devoted to me and has some money, but I do not know if I want to marry her. What do you advise?—Bachelor.

Bachelor:—I am afraid your mother's watchfulness and anxiety about you have made you rather a selfish individual; I think a happy family life is the ideal life, but everyone does not attain the ideal. But every man who is in a position to support a wife should get married—not for money, or position, although both these things are desirable, but not without love and esteem on both sides. It develops a man's character to have someone to provide for and think of besides himself, and ought to make a better man of him. A man who had lately become engaged said to me, "I have twice as much respect for myself now", and that is the way a man should feel when he becomes engaged. But if you think of marrying, set out deliberately to make your choice, and do not marry a girl simply because she flatters you by her attentions, as in the case of the young lady you mention, unless you think she is the only woman you would marry.

Mrs. W.

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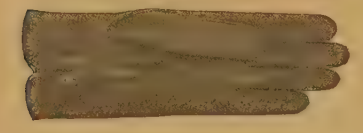








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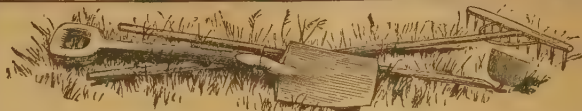
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## In The Garden



CONDUCTED BY JOHN ELLIOTT MORSE.

## The Old Year's Close.

With the advent of December, we of the north land must practically suspend the active work of the garden; and for the present the head rather than the hands will be called into action.

This by no means argues that any work that can yet be accomplished should be left undone; but the rather if there are any odd jobs lurking about we have more time to finish them up now than in the busier season of the year. This last thought suggests that the vegetable pits will very likely require extra covering now and as noted in a recent issue the safer plan is to add a second covering of straw before putting on the extra soil. Possibly too there may be manure that might be gotten onto the ground; and if so, it will be time very profitably spent to get it out as soon as possible.

Very likely we shall be accused (and doubtless very justly) of repeating ourselves; but "line upon line, precept upon precept," is the only way by which we become familiar with the things of life.

## Some Things Worth Trying.

Among the sorts and varieties of vegetables that we have grown the past season there are some worthy of mention. We are often told that experimenting does not pay, and we have often found this to be true, at least, in the sense of present financial gain; but as we are not always looking on the dollars and cents side of the question, we keep up the experiments to some extent. In working along these lines a part of our work has been in testing new varieties. Some of these have proven really valuable with us while others have been quite the reverse.

Among the varieties tested is a new bean (Burpee's White Wax) which if we rightly judge will prove one of the most valuable yet introduced. The objection to other varieties of the wax beans was that they were colored either black or mottled which made them undesirable as dry beans. The introduction of the Davis Kidney has eliminated that objection and it thus proved desirable in that feature but was faulty in that after a certain stage of growth it is inclined to be tough and to some extent stringy. In this new bean we have all the desirable features of color and quality so that from the earliest stage of the snap bean to the dried product we have a thoroughly good article. It shows immense cropping qualities and from the tests we have made we judge it will become the leader of all the wax bean family.

## As to Tomatoes.

In a previous issue we wrote something of an experiment with tomatoes: instead of deep setting which we have always practised we simply trenched them shallow, leaving only a portion of the tops above ground. The object of the test was if possible, to determine whether anything was gained by transplanting in the hotbed; or whether, they would do equally well to grow thickly in the drill (which of course would make them spindling). We were dependent upon a neighboring green house to start our plants which were late at best, and thus we could not make a thorough test; but certainly we never had better yields than from those trenched plants, and in maturing they did as well as we could expect from the lateness of the transplanting season. Next year we hope to test the matter with plants growing side and side from start to finish, so that we may know whereof we speak.

Last spring we decided to use the Matchless tomato for main crop, and while not a new variety, we had never grown it. From the past season's ex-

perience we find it equal to any with which we are acquainted and believe it fully entitled to position in the front rank of main crop tomatoes. As to color it is red which is a desirable feature for the canners; and the flavor is far superior to most others that we have tried.

For an early tomato the Fordhook Fancy has proven very satisfactory, not for a single year; but after several seasons trial in different soils and under varied conditions.

A few years ago we obtained a strain of seed from an old and popular variety, in its day counted the best slicing tomato grown. The original was very large and exceedingly rough and ill shaped which made it unpopular as a market sort. The seed from which we obtained our stock was from a perfectly (or nearly so), smooth strain of the rough ungainly parent. An ounce of the original seeds (the entire visible supply) was purchased by a party at fifty dollars for the ounce, and from this seed we obtained a few from which we got our start. The first year's sowing gave us, among the other plants, three of the same habit in all respects as the others but an entirely different fruit in fact, a radically distinct variety and unlike any tomato we have ever seen.

We have worked upon this tomato for several years with varied success. By one and another mischance we had nearly lost all traces of the seed and were fearful that all our past efforts were gone for naught; but by good fortune we found a mislaid package and although very late sown we obtained two good specimens of fruit before the frost damaged them. Next year we hope to go on and see what we can make of it. It is quite early; fully holding its own with all of the first early sorts with which we have tested it, a heavy and continuous bearer and the keeping qualities exceed any that I have ever grown. With fair success next year, we hope to sufficiently perfect it to be able to send out some of the seeds for trial.

## Something About Potatoes.

Having grown potatoes to considerable extent, we feel fully competent to say that they are a tricky sort of critter, and easily liable to frustrate the plans of the oldest inhabitant. There is some secret regarding them which if known and capable of demonstration would make the fortunate possessor a multi-millionaire. The same varieties under seemingly like conditions will give an abnormally large crop; and the next year a yield that will not pay the expense of growing and harvesting. The reasons for this we are unable to tell and fully believe that no man living is able to do more. But withal the potato is an exceedingly valuable crop and we do well to go on growing it whether or not we always have success.

There is one plan of growing which though practised extensively, is in my mind of doubtful utility and from which I am getting pretty thoroughly weaned, and doubly so since the blight is becoming so destructive. I refer to the practice of planting the late or main crop so late in the season: which now is often the middle of June or later. In the first place, I believe that everything in the vegetable line has its natural season of growth; and other things being equal, will succeed best when planted within its natural limits of development. From the first part of June to September 15th, when early frosts are liable to do much damage is not long enough time for the later sorts to fully develop.

Then too, the late blight is liable to attack them just as the tubers are beginning to make growth with the result that the crop is ruined or nearly so. The past season my late potatoes were planted

(Continued on page 21)



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# A Man's Judgment

By E. E. Miller

"Confound her," muttered Hardin savagely, as the girl balanced herself on a big stone right at the gully's edge. Aloud he said as patiently as possible, "You had better be careful, Miss Stuart, if you should slip you might get a bad fall."

Clutching a slender twig for support, Stella looked over into the ravine and raising her eyebrows began with a ludicrous solemnity, "The dark abyss that looms before—"

A little gasping scream finished her recital as the bank gave way and tumbled her down its side. Hardin plunged after her white with fear and anger.

She was a forlorn looking figure as he pulled her out of the wreckage of earth, stones and dead bushes and raised her to her feet. With his assistance she stood, trembling but with compressed lips.

"No bones broken?" he asked shortly. "No, I am not hurt much," she answered quietly, trying to stand alone.

He had a new respect for her as he gathered her in his arms, tousled, soiled, scratched, bruised, scared and ashamed, yet making a noble effort to be brave and reasonable. She was now an injured woman instead of the spoiled child who had worn his patience threadbare that afternoon; and with a strong man's natural kindness he even felt tender toward her as he saw the blood trickling down over the mud-stained face against his shoulder.

Struggling out of the gully, he carried her to the spring where they had eaten dinner, and called for the rest of the party. While waiting their arrival he patched and cleaned her up as best he could, going about it with a respectful frankness that made her submit quietly and even thankfully.

He was glad enough, however, to turn her over to the girls who gathered about her; and so far recalled his resentment as to tell Jack Olney that it was due to "her own cursed foolishness" that she was hurt.

Yet as they drove home she bore her evident suffering of both body and mind with such unaffected humility that he found himself immensely sorry for her; and looking at the pale face so resolutely calm, he felt that he would like to take her in his arms again and comfort her as if she were a hurt child. He restrained himself to courteous kindness, however, and unsuccessfully tried to keep his thoughts within the same safe limits.

When they reached her home he picked her up despite her rather feeble protests, and carried her in. From the lounge where he placed her she looked frankly at him and said with simple dignity: "Mr. Hardin, I am very sorry I acted so foolishly and caused you so much trouble, and I thank you very much for your kindness. I know you cannot sympathize much with me, but I want you to know I appreciate the way you have treated me."

Hardin hesitated, then crushing back the things he longed to say, murmured some stupid conventionalities and took his leave.

It was several weeks before he saw her again, and at her first words the fond dreaming of these weeks gave way to the realization that he had judged her rightly at first. Yes, he said to himself, she was only a spoiled child, not bad at heart, but vain, thoughtless, fickle and capricious. He could not help smiling at her whimsical speeches and her vivid mimicry, yet they displeased him. And as he watched the dark eyebrows curve and the red lips ripple into wayward smiles, or heard the sweet-spoken satire, the soft, mocking laughter, his heart filled with anger. He wanted to see again the face, gentle and penitent but calm and brave, that had appealed so strongly to him the afternoon of that luckless picnic day.

As he met her again and again the deepening perception of the difference between what she might be and what she chose to be aroused in him a deep resentment as if she were doing him a personal injury. So he treated her with a formal politeness whose coldness could be felt; and she repaid this with a punctilious deference which seemed to him to have in it something of mockery.

Thus matters went on until one night they met at an informal party. Stella was the central figure of a little group which was talking of old school days. She had been making them laugh by telling all the absurd things she could remember about her teachers and school-mates; but suddenly she became grave. "There was another boy, too, who came there that I shall never forget. We called him 'Red' from the color of his hair and his freckled face. He was awfully poor, and wore the funniest old patched-up clothes. We used to tease him every way we could think of; but he was the brightest fellow I ever saw, and when he began to show us what he could do we got ashamed and treated him better. After awhile some of the people who knew him helped him to go to college; but almost as soon as he got there he began drinking and went to the bad. His poor old mother was awfully proud of him, and it nearly killed her. I used to go to see her and try to cheer her up, but I couldn't do much at it. She's dead now, I think."

There was silence for a little while, then she spoke again very softly, "He had a sweetheart, too, a little pale-faced girl who took it nearly as hard as his mother did; but I could make her laugh a little sometimes. Isn't it sad to see anyone sacrifice all that is best in himself to what is worst?"

"Yet how many do it," said Hardin with quivering intensity, looking straight at her. She seemed to guess something of his meaning; for her face flushed and her eyes fell, while his tumultuous fancy broke away from all restraint. Here was the Stella of his dreams; and he found an exquisite joy in reversing his decision about her and telling himself that he had been a fool.

"Miss Stuart," he said a little later when he happened to find her in the hall alone, "I want to ask your pardon."

"What for, please?" she demanded. "For misjudging you through all these months. I have thought—"

She interrupted him, "Well I can't see that you need apologize to me for your own bad judgment. I have nothing to do with it." She was turning away, but he caught her hand. "One minute, please, Miss Stuart, Stella, I love you. I have loved you from the first day I knew you."

(Concluded on page 24)

## In the Garden

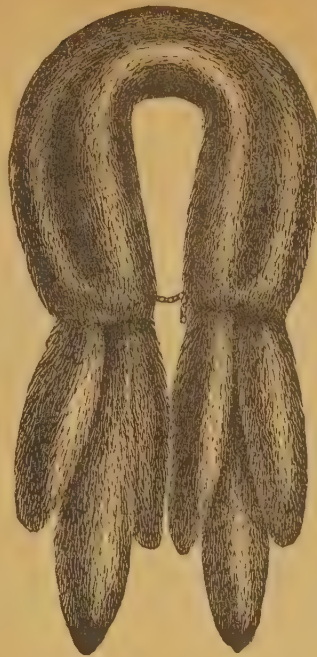
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just at the proper time according to the theory of some of the wise men of the world. They were planted on good soil and had fair cultivation but the "off" year and the blight together nearly ruined the crop. True the spraying with Bordeaux mixture was neglected in the rush of the berry season, but even that is not always effectual especially when used as a remedy. I believe it to be far more effective as a preventive than a cure. Well, to sum up the matter, I shall in future aim to have my late potatoes planted on time which in our locality is about May 15th. If successful in doing this I shall be pretty well satisfied to plant at that time rather than wait until June.

## And Lastly

We desire to repeat a former request: that our readers send us some items of interest. Tell us what you have been doing in the gardening line in the past and also what are your plans for the future. If it is of successes you write that is good, but if of failures that may be even better. Let us know about it any way as we believe it will be helpful to others.

Now, I wonder how many of our readers will endeavor to send in the name of a new subscriber. We could not make a more useful Christmas present than a year's subscription to Vick's and the cost is so little that it need not deter almost anyone from doing that. So let us all cheer the hearts of the publishers by even one new name and more if possible.



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Wheat if I can get it reasonably, but I feed all grains mixed.—J. C. J., N. Y.

Corn is the principal feed in winter, wheat, barley and oats in spring and summer, I prefer a mixture of all the above grains rather than any one or two alone, but if I was to feed one alone I would like wheat, although I think corn is an excellent food when good judgment is used in feeding it.—J. M., Pa.

We feed corn, wheat and oats the year around, more corn in winter. Our hens do well on this grain and lay well.—S. T.

For the past year I have fed more wheat and corn than any other grains. They have been cheaper and more convenient to get. For an egg food I prefer a mixture of wheat two parts, buckwheat one, Kaffir corn one, cracked corn one, oats one, barley one. To know positively just what constitutes the best balanced ration for a flock is quite a difficult matter. That which would be best for one breed or flock may not be for another. The difference in climate may make it necessary to feed different foods also the age of poultry makes a difference. Therefore the best way to get at this question is to study the composition of the different kinds of grain, then we can make up a feed which the hens relish, and add to it or take from it the foods which are rich in protein (muscle-maker), carbohydrates (fat) or mineral matter (shell and bone,) keeping in mind the cost of the different grains. A hen that is over fat is not a very satisfactory egg producer, and a poor hen can not lay well, but a hen to be a good layer must have some fat on her body, then she has surplus energy. Corn, I believe, is an excellent food when properly fed, and especially for Leghorns. It is probably relished better than any other grain, but to feed corn day in and day out for month after month, regardless of breed, conditions, or surrounding is wrong. Peas are a good food, but not always easy to get. Wheat I think is the best all round food, and good oats and barley next.—V. M. C.

We have the following questions to be answered through this department.

1.—For best results in breeding how many hens do you mate to one male bird and what breed?

2.—For early hatching how long do you keep the eggs before incubating them? At what temperature and where do you keep them and do you turn them frequently or not at all?

3.—What percent of fertile eggs have you been able to get, say in February? and what percent of chicks have you hatched and raised from these fertile eggs?

## Questions Answered.

Again I come to you with a bunch of questions. I am in a quandry about what foods to "lay in" for winter. I shall have about sixty fowls to feed, I am sending you samples of various foods which I can buy and would like your judgment on same. I am wondering if it would not be cheaper for me to buy various grains, such as cracked corn, buckwheat, barley, oats, wheat like sample and Kaffir corn and make my own mixture. I have been feeding Eaton's food to my pullets and they prefer it to cracked corn and always pick out the Kaffir corn first. I think it good feed but does the price warrant my using it is the vital question. I do not think the other food like sample is enough better to make the difference in price. Now why can't I buy these various grains and make my own. Now what I want to ask you is this, what proportion of the above grains would you use, price considered of course, somewhat. Now after telling me this will you kindly answer the following questions by number. My stock is White Wyandottes.

1.—I sent away for eggs from a man's best pen and have many single combs, and some tails look very leghorn like. Some of them have little fine feathers sticking on their legs, ought these things to be? The majority are beauties, cockerels fine.

2.—Can I breed this stock next spring, the same being brothers and sisters?

3.—(a) I am contemplating "dry feeding" this winter, do you think I will get as many eggs. (b.) Do you not think the eggs will be more fertile next spring?

4.—I have a place where I can keep the cockerels separate from the hens this winter and if I do so will they require the same feeding and as much as hens?

5.—I have a pullet hatched April 17th weighing five pounds and a cockerel hatched May 1st, weighing seven pounds. Is this considered doing well?

6.—I am getting milk from the creamery here and when allowed to "lobber" I feed to the stock. Can I feed too much of it? They always look for more.

7.—What would you do as a precaution to keep out mites, etc? Would you recommend Lee's Liquid Lice Killer? I have a new hen house built this summer and am very anxious to keep it nice and clean. I have platforms under all the roosts which I clean off every day and sprinkle over with road dust. In the winter I will use coal ashes.

8.—How many nests do you consider necessary for twenty hens?

9.—I have three pens and hope to have about twenty in a pen. If I only expect to breed from two of these pens, will three cockerels be sufficient by alternating, etc.

10.—If you were getting feed for say sixty, how much in quantity would you put in to carry you through until late spring or summer?

11.—What do you think of the wheat at \$1.30?

12.—What is your opinion of Kaffir corn? Is it considered good for laying hens?—J. C. J., N. Y.

If you can buy the above grains at the regular market prices you can probably make quite a saving in buying them in this way and mix them yourself. I would suggest the following mixture two parts; wheat, one buckwheat, one cracked corn, one barley, one Kaffir corn, one oats. You can probably use two parts barley to good advantage.

1.—No, yet there are no breeds of domestic poultry but what will throw some birds that are "off" in various points. White Wyandottes while a very common and popular breed are comparatively new, hence more likely to show these irregular points.

2.—Yes you can breed in this way, but if there are very many poor specimens would advise using fresh blood in males. The best results are had as a rule by mating strong vigorous cockerels to yearling hens. In mating a cock with pullets use only a vigorous one and have the pullets at least ten months old.

3.—(a) I have not experimented with dry feeding to any great extent. It seems to give good satisfaction with others in egg production. (b) Yes. In regard to fertility of eggs produced by the dry feeding method, Dr. Sanborn, in American Poultry Advocate, says, "I have been using the dry feeding method more or less for eight years. I began to use

it in midwinter eight years ago, at that time I was after eggs that I could sell for hatching broilers. I put into each pen a hopper that held bran, meat, meal and grit, and balanced up my ration by feeding cracked corn, in the litter. I was pleased with the results from the eggs so were my customers,—one of them coming back four times for eggs in 220 egg lots, the eggs being highly fertile. From this beginning I got such good results that I have gone on feeding more and more dry meat and grain."

I have no doubt but this plan of feeding properly carried out, is best for egg production and fertility of eggs, and that a larger percent of chicks can be raised on dry feed than when a wet mash is used.

4.—Cockerels if well matured and kept separate will not require quite as much food as laying hens.

5.—Yes.

6.—Yes. Yet there is very little danger of feeding too much milk in this shape. Govern the quantity by condition and health of birds.

7.—Use kerosene or crude oil freely on the perches and about the nests. Lee's Lice Killer is highly spoken of for this purpose.

8.—Five.

9.—Yes.

10.—Twenty-five to thirty bushels of grains, depending on quantity of mash food, vegetables, etc., given.

11.—I think the wheat (No. 1. sample) rather expensive food at \$1.30 per cwt.

12.—Kaffir corn is now used in much of the prepared poultry and egg foods. Its nutritive ratio of protein and carbohydrates is one, to eight and one tenth. Not quite as fattening as our common corn. Mixed with other grain it is considered a good food for laying hens.

## Our Guarantee to Vick Subscribers.

It is our intention to admit to the columns of VICK'S FAMILY MAGAZINE any advertising that is not entirely trustworthy and we will make good to actual paid in advance cash subscribers any loss sustained by patronizing Vick advertisers, who prove to be deliberate frauds, provided this magazine is mentioned when writing advertisers and complaint is made to us within twenty days of the transaction.

We will not attempt to settle disputes between subscribers and reputable advertisers nor will we assume any responsibility for losses resulting from honest bankruptcy. We intend to protect our subscribers from frauds and fakes and will appreciate it if our readers will report any crooked or unfair dealing on the part of any advertiser in Vick's.

Vick's Family Magazine will be sent to any address 3 years for only \$1.00.

## BOYS and GIRLS Earn a CHRISTMAS PRESENT for MOTHER!

If you will sell three of our coupons, good for six months subscription to Vick's Family Magazine and worth 25c each, at only 10c each, sending us the three names and 30c, we will send you by return mail a neat leather Needle Case containing a package of the Superior silver steele, gold eyed needles, and set of 15 tape, darning and embroidery needles, assorted sizes. The very thing your mother needs. Send for coupons today so as to get the premium in ample time for Christmas. Send for our circular of other premiums.

Will make a **FIRST-CLASS BOOK-KEEPER** of you in 6 weeks for \$3 or RETURN MONEY. 1st and 2nd POSITIONS, too—FREE! WRITE: J. H. GOODWIN, Room 321, 1215 Broadway, New York

**Earn \$8** ADVERTISING OUR WASHING FLUID in your town with 100 samples. SEND 50 STAMPS. A. W. SCOTT, CONOES, N. Y.

**6th & 7th** Books of Moses, Egyptian Secrets, Black Art, also Mineral Rods. Cir. J. H. ENDERS, Dept. L.F., Mechanicsburg, Pa.

**HANDSOME NECKWEAR**  
As a Special Offer to introduce my Handsome Neckwear I will send post-free TWO of the latest style Novelty Silk Collars, perfect beauties, for only 25 Cents. A 6-months' subscription for Fine Women's Magazine and Catalogue of Women's Novelties FREE with each order. This is a Bargain. Address, Madame Bishop, Room 15, 135 W. Madison St., Chicago

**Brooks' Sure Cure FOR RUPTURE!**  
Brooks' Appliance, New discovery. Wonderful. No obnoxious springs or pads. Automatic Air Cushions. Binds and draws the broken parts together as you would a broken limb. No surgery. No lymphol. No ties. Durable, cheap. Pat. Sept. 10, '01. SENT ON TRIAL. CATALOGUE FREE. BROOKS APPLIANCE CO., Box 499, MARSHALL, MOH.

**FITS!**  
If You Think Your Case Hopeless Get My Free Treatment.

Coffeyville, Kansas, Oct. 22, 1905.  
Dear Dr. Green:  
I am glad to say that my son, who was afflicted for years with fits, has not had a fit since he took your trial treatment two years ago (Oct. 1903). He is now able to do hard labor and I am thankful indeed to you.  
F. R. Drake.  
This man was fortunate enough to be CURED by accepting just the offer as I now make to you. If you don't believe it, write to Mr. Drake enclosing stamp for reply. If someone YOU love and pity is torn by attacks of this frightful disease I want you to write me once. Many have been cured and many are now being cured by my new methods. I am a regularly graduated physician and for years devoted almost my entire time to the study of this one disease. I have studied thousands of cases and consequently understand the disease in its various forms and the most successful way to master it. THAT IS WHY I CURE SO MANY THAT THEIR HOME DOCTORS SAY CAN'T BE CURED. As an evidence of good faith I will compound free of charge an individual set of prescriptions lasting two weeks, for every sufferer who will confide in me. Write for it now and learn more about how Epilepsy and Fits are being relieved of their terrors. Address me personally to DR. CHAS. GREEN, 204 Monroe St., Battle Creek, Michigan.

# You are to be the Judge!

ONE WILL CURE YOU! We say ONE PACKAGE will PROVE it is the remedy for your case. If it does not, YOU TO BE THE JUDGE, we want nothing from you.



**WE WILL SEND TO ALL** sick and ailing readers of Vick's a full-sized ONE DOLLAR PACKAGE of VITAE-ORE postfree, sufficient for one month's treatment, to be paid for within one month's time after receipt. If the receiver can truthfully say that its use has done him or her more good than all the drugs and doses of quacks or good doctors or patent medicines he or she has ever used. Read this over again carefully, and understand that we ask our pay only when it has done you good, and not before. If it does not, no money is wanted! We take all the risk, you have nothing to lose. If it does not benefit you, you pay us nothing. We give you thirty days' time to try the medicine, thirty days to see the results before you pay us one penny, and you do not pay the one penny unless you do see the results. You are to be the judge. We know Vitae-Ore and are willing to take the risk. We have done so in thousands of cases and have never regretted it.

**WHAT VITAE-ORE IS:** VITAE-ORE is purely mineral. Non-Alcoholic, Non-Narcotic, Non-Injurious remedy, a combination of the substances from which many of the world's noted curative springs derive their proven medicinal power and healing virtue. These known and proven properties of the springs come from the natural deposits of mineral in the earth through which water percolates on its way to its outlet, only a very small proportion of the medicinal substances of these mineral deposits being thus taken up by the liquid. Vitae-Ore, is a combination of Iron, Sulphur and Magnesium, three elements which are the chief curative agents in nearly every known healing mineral spring, three elements which are the most essential for the creation and retention of health in the human system. ONE ONE DOLLAR PACKAGE, containing one ounce of this Ore-substance, when mixed with quart of water, will equal in medicinal strength and curative value hundreds of gallons of the most powerful mineral waters of the globe drunk fresh at the springs.

Vitae-Ore is a powerful constitutional tonic, a cleansing, reconstructing and healing agent. It exerts a wonderfully corrective influence upon the Blood, Stomach, Kidneys and Bowels, and its proper use produces exceptional results in most every case of disease whose origin can be traced to these organs, such as Rheumatism, Gout, Bright's Disease, Indigestion, Dropsy, Blood Poisoning, Dropsy, Catarrh, Anaemia, Nervous Prostration, FEMALE DISORDERS, etc. It reaches the Nidus, the underlying lesion, the original disturbing influence, and the user, when cured, may confidently depend upon the cure being a permanent one.

It is unequalled also when used as an external application in Flesh Wounds, Bruises, Hemorrhage, Sores, Ulcers, Piles, etc. Still another quality of this Ore-substance is its efficiency in Throat Disorders when used as a gargle, swab or spray. Hundreds of thousands of people from all parts of the English speaking world have testified to its remarkable efficiency, to the truth of our claims. Its very nature and its known record deserve consideration and a test by every thinking person who needs and wants a curative remedy. "VITAE-ORE HAS CURED more chronic, obstinate, pronounced incurable cases than any other known medicine. If yours is such a case, do not fear, do not hesitate, but SEND TO-DAY FOR A PACKAGE ON 30 DAYS TRIAL!"

## MAKE NATURE YOUR DOCTOR FOR 30 DAYS

VITAE-ORE will restore health for you as it has done for thousands if you will only give it a trial. Send for a DOLLAR PACKAGE at our risk. You have nothing to lose but the stamp to answer this advertisement. We want no one's money whom Vitae-Ore cannot benefit. You are to be the Judge! Can anything be more fair? What sensible person, no matter how prejudiced he or she may be, who desires a cure and is willing to pay for it, would hesitate to try Vitae-Ore on this liberal offer? One packet is often sufficient to cure ordinary cases; two or three for chronic, obstinate cases. We mean just what we say in this announcement, and will do just as we agree. Write today for a package at our risk and expense, giving your age and ailments, and mention Vick's, so that we may know that you are entitled to this special offer.

**THIS LIBERAL OFFER** will challenge the attention and consideration and afterwards command the gratitude of every living person who desires better health or who suffers from, illness and diseases WHICH HAVE DEFIED THE MEDICAL WORLD AND GROWN WORSE WITH AGE. We care not for your skepticism, but ask only your personal investigation, and at our expense, regardless of what ill you have, by sending to us for a package. In answer to this, ADDRESS **THEO. NOEL, VICK'S DEPT., VITAE-ORE BUILDING, CHICAGO, ILL.**



## FRUIT NOTES

### Small Fruits.

The title of this department must by no means be understood as ignoring the culture of other than the small fruits. We say let every home owner cultivate and diligently strive to grow all of these that is possible but by all means give the large fruits as apples, pears, peaches, etc., a chance also. Of course in the cities and towns where areas are limited and owners haven't land "to burn," varieties as well as quantities must be limited; but in the suburban and rural homes we need not be thus proscribed.

But the thought I wish to impress is that however small the home grounds, there is nearly always some vacant spot where a fruit tree, vine or some of the small fruits could be grown without interfering with anything else. It is these nooks and corners that we want to search out and often we may find a spot that would not only be beautified but utilized as well by the planting of an apple, pear, or cherry tree. Any of these will form a grateful shade, and properly pruned are very ornamental as well, while the fruit ere long will amply repay all the trouble.

### Room at the Top.

It matters little how plentiful the fruit crop, there never is a time I think, when a fancy article need go begging. Recently in conversation with a friend who last spring planted out ten acres of strawberries, this subject came up and we both agreed that the distance from market precluded any idea of profits with other than fancy fruits. Our principal market is thirty miles distant and there are hundreds of larger or smaller growers hauling in and shipping there, yet he thinks with fancy fruit tastily put up he will find room for his crop; and I too believe so. But he did not embark in this venture without to some extent at least, counting up the cost. It requires ideal conditions with skillful management to grow big crops of big berries and the profits if any, must be sought for above the cost line of production with whatever that includes. For two years previous the ground has been heavily manured in spring and planted to potatoes. The culture was so thorough that not a weed was allowed to grow upon the entire ten acres. Last spring a third application of manure was made before the strawberry plants were set, and up to this writing no weeds have been visible during the season. The result is that the ground is highly fertilized and is now full of plant food in available form and also is full of humus. The plants will be mulched as soon as the ground is sufficiently frozen to bear up a team and wagon, and if next year does not show results, then something other than lack of fertility and culture will be responsible. This is merely a recital of some of the things that go to make up successful berry-growing; not written to discourage or deter any from fruit growing in any line; but rather to encourage the very best possible efforts in whatever is undertaken. Here is the matter in a nut shell, let us strive to grow two quarts or bushels where one has formerly grown.

### Some of the Work in Sight.

Could we look ahead to any leisure days so long as weather admits of outdoor work, we should feel encouraged; but we fear they are some distance in the future. There is considerable dead wood and also many water sprouts that ought to come out of the apple trees, and now is the right time to do it. The future or "sometime," is never a good time to accomplish it. Then, too, the pruning of the grape vines is yet unfinished and I desire if possible to complete that before the spring time. Two years ago last spring we began a war upon the sod among our grape vines; and we decided it could be done more easily and cheaply with ashes either wood or coal, than with hoes and elbow grease; and we still be-

lieve our theory correct. Through our absence a year ago and our late return last spring the work was not completed; but where the ashes were applied two years ago in the heaviest kind of sod we can now lift it off with the hand or a fork leaving the ground around the vines as clean as one could wish. So we are anxious to continue this work during the winter. The ashes are to be had for the hauling and there is plenty of work in that line and it makes us wish that there were more days in the week. We desire also to use quantities of them in our raspberry and blackberry bushes; preferring for this the clear wood ashes. We can also use stable manure in goodly quantities among the bush fruits; and earnestly wish that hired help was more plentiful. The summing up of the whole matter is this, that we do not expect to accomplish anything like all the work that really requires doing. We shall do all we can but help is practically out of the question; and we see no way but to attend to the more important things first. After that the minor things will be cared for as fast as possible. The season now of course will not admit of uninterrupted work which might have been the case earlier, and frequent breaks must be expected; but some work can doubtless be done and more or less odd jobs completed that will lighten the work of spring by just that much.

### Looking Ahead.

Now that the winter is upon us, there will be some time at least to formulate plans for future action. I refer especially to the planting of fruit trees, bush fruits and berries. Doubtless most of us have had occasion in the past to regret that we had so few or perhaps, even none of these luxuries. Now let us for the future, away with regrets and face about and see to it that the coming spring shall see these mistakes rectified. So let us begin now to plan how much space we can devote to the fruit garden, what we can most successfully handle and what amount of each we shall have. It is well to remember that all sorts and varieties do not succeed equally well under all conditions. Very likely there are successful growers in easy reach of us all and it is well to cast about us and see what they are doing and how they do it. Their experience as to sorts and varieties will be valuable to us, and in the main they will be safe guides in our operations provided of course, we can give like conditions. At any rate let us take hold of the matter and make the start. If we fail once try again and success will crown our efforts sooner or later.

Now a word as to purchasing stock. In the main we shall do best to deal direct with the growers. In the advertising columns you will find plenty of reliable men ready to furnish anything desired. A postal card will bring their catalogue and you will receive fair treatment and pay not to exceed one-half what agents demand. Tell them just what you desire and allow no substitution except by your special permission; and if unfairly dealt with lay the matter before the publishers of Vick's and we believe that the growers will rectify all mistakes.

Below is a communication from a Nebraska subscriber which properly belongs to the garden department; but will be answered here for convenience.

C. T. Watson, McCook, Neb.—"In an early number of Vick's will you kindly have Mr. Morse state what use can most profitably be made of the hotbed this fall and winter. Could it be used for mushrooms or pie plant? I want to get some further good from the bed."

You can use them very successfully for forcing pie plant or rhubarb. Select ground where you can excavate eight to ten or more inches without danger of water running in. This is to give greater depth so that the stalks will not become cramped for height. Freeze the roots and set them in snugly together and cover over with boards, dispensing with the sash altogether.

Either lap the boards or use two thicknesses to avoid leaking. They can thus remain until you desire to start the forcing as no amount of freezing will injure them before growth starts. When ready to force, pile on sufficient fresh stable manure to start heating. If liable to cool off too much add more manure—sufficient to keep up some degree of heat. It will not require air and by all means exclude the light and frost. In from two to three weeks the pie plant should be growing nicely and the pile can be uncovered sufficiently at any time to pull the stalks. They could not be utilized for mushrooms as they require very careful and peculiar handling.

The name of the owner of the farm printed upon the rural mail box in front of his house is no little convenience to the traveling public. Only the men who have old, ramshackle places, with hogs in the dooryard, down fences and the mark of shiftlessness all over, object to it. The man with a neatly kept farm home is creditably advertised by his name on the box.

### A Man's Judgment

(Continued from page twenty-one)

"Mr. Hardin you have no right to say such things to me. You have always treated me as if you could scarcely endure me, and I do not—"

"But I have been so sadly mistaken," he broke in, tightening his grasp on the hand she was striving to withdraw. "It has seemed to me you were sacrificing what was best—"

"Sir"

"I mean—I beg your pardon, Miss Stuart. I am a fool; but I love you. I have been trying all this time to think I didn't, for I thought—I mean—you know what I mean, Miss Stuart. I mean that—that I love you."

"Stella, sweetheart!" For the face she turned toward him was tenderer and sweeter than that of his dreams.

"No, you musn't," she said pushing him gently away. "Don't you hear some one is coming?"

### A Twilight Song.

Goodby, Mister Sunshine,  
Gwine down de skies,  
Fin' yo' nes'  
En take yo' res'—  
Soon be time ter rise!

Goodby, Mister Sunshine,  
Eve'nin' come wid sighs;  
Kiss goodnight  
En take yo' flight—  
Soon be time ter rise!

### His Final Instructions.

An old dinky who was fearful of being buried alive, left these final instructions: "After my time come, lemme stay ez long ez possible. Don't make de funeral sermon too long, kaze dat'll make me sleep only de sounder; but blow de dinner-ho'n over me. Ef dat don't wake me, I is sho' gone!"

### Some Complicated English.

"Speaking of Texas," said a young lawyer who once lived in the Lone Star State, "reminds me of a peculiar conversation I heard in a grocery a few years ago in one of the smaller places of the State, and the story will amply illustrate the peculiarities of the vernacular in certain more remote parts of Texas. I happened to be in the grocery in question when a little girl came in to buy some eggs and the following conversation was carried on between the girl and the keeper of the place: 'Ain't you got no eggs?' asked the little girl. 'I ain't said I ain't,' the store-keeper replied, whereupon the little girl replied after this fashion: 'I ain't ask you is you ain't you. I ask you is you is you. Ain't you?' That's the way they talk in some sections of the State. The little lassie who used the expression made herself clear and she got the eggs."

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### For Christmas Gifts

#### THE PERRY PICTURES

Four Gold Medals  
ONE CENT

Each for 25 or more; 120 for \$1.00. Send 50 cents for 50 Art Subjects or 50 Madonnas, etc., or 50 Life of Christ, etc., or 50 for Children, or 25 cents for any 25, or \$1.00

For Christmas Set of 120 choice pictures, or four 25c. sets and 20 pictures.

Catalogue of 1,000 tiny pictures for 25 stamp in Dec.

THE PERRY PICTURE CO., Box 567, MALDEN, MASS.



**STARK FRUIT BOOK**  
shows in NATURAL COLORS and accurately describes 216 varieties of fruit. Send for our terms of distribution. We want more salesmen.—Stark Bros., Louisiana, Mo.

### Tree Protectors

75c per 100

\$5.00 per 1,000

As valuable in summer against sun-scall, hot winds, etc. as they are in winter AGAINST GOLD AND RABBITS. Recommended by all leading Orchardists and Horticultural Societies. Send for samples and testimonials. Do not wait until Rabbits and Mice ruin your trees. Write us to day. Wholesale Nursery Catalogue now ready. Send for copy. Agents Wanted Everywhere.

### Hart Pioneer Nurseries

Fort Scott, Kansas. Box 138

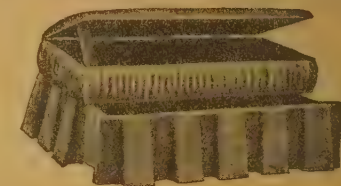
Comic Post Cards, assorted styles, 10c a doz; 50c a hundred. Guide Pub. Co., Fort Madison, Iowa.

### OUR GOODS A BLESSING.

Write for free catalogue, which makes home bright. Toilet necessities, Drugs, Sundries, Remedies and a various line of Rubber goods. Address Dept. F. Advanced Mail Order House, 98 Market St., Chicago.

### WE CARPET A ROOM FOR \$2.50

ART RUG CO., 1204 Chestnut St., Phila.



This Handsome Shirt Waist Box. Free for just a few hours working for us selling our goods. Write for Catalogue and agent's terms. All free.

DU BELL MFG. CO. Bath, N. Y.

### ITELL

Your Fortune, and Your Life Reading, also Photo of future Husband or Wife, with True Luck Charm and Gold and Wedding Ring. All for 10 CTS. and birth date. PROF. J. A. LION, BOX C, FALMOUTH, ILL.

### CARDS

Your name on 25 stylish visiting cards. Postpaid 10c. 100 for 30c

Correct styles. A. J. Kirby, V. North Tiverton, R. I.

### FREE

Clairvoyance. If sick or ailing send now name, age, sex, lock of hair and 2 stamps to Dr. D. Hinkley, X. 1, Grand Rapids, Mich.

DON'T Accept an Agency until you have seen my illustrated Catalogue, free. N. W. SIMONS, Ashtabula, Ohio.

### PILES

Quick Relief. Final cure in a short time. Never returns. No pain, no cure, no sale, no suppository. For details mailed free. Address: J. H. KEEVES, Box 65, New York, N. Y.

Paralysis and Rheumatism. We guarantee a cure. For thirty years a Study. Free Trial on approval. The Dyer Chem. Co., Jackson, Mich.

### WORDS FOR SONGS WANTED

Melville Music Pub. Co., 708 St. James Bldg., New York

BED-WETTING CURES IT. Samples Free. D. Boettger Chem. Co., Peoria, Ill.

### It is Folly to Grow Old

My twenty-five years' experience among the elite of London proves my claim.

Youth and Beauty May Be Yours

The improvement I can cause is marvelous. An enclosed stamp brings explanations. I have no preparations to sell.

AUGUSTA KENWOOD, "The Wonder Worker."

Room 11, 808 17th Street, Denver, Colo.

### Trees

\$5.00 per 100, Freight Paid Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Peach and Carolina Poplars. healthy, true to name and fumigated. All kinds of trees and plants at low wholesale prices. Remember we beat all other reliable Nurseries in quality and price. Catalogue free. RELIANCE NURSERY, BOX V, GENEVA, N. Y.



## FARM NOTES

### Pig Pointers.

A hog with bristles has a coarse thick skin.

A damp, filthy bed for the little pigs brings rheumatism and causes them to scour.

In feeding pigs to the best advantage it should be remembered to increase the rations as their growth increases.

Growing pigs should have the run of a good pasture. To thrive best they must have exercise as soon as they are old enough to walk.

If pigs are raised to be fattened it is very important that they be taught to eat early, and then care should be taken in feeding regularly.

### Dairy Wisdom.

There can be no success in the dairy unless the herd is a good one.

If cream of a different ripeness is mixed there will be a loss in the churning.

It is not so much the matter how butter is made, provided it is good butter.

Make the butter first-class and put it on the market in such a manner as to show what it is.

The chief advantage of deep setting of milk is that it is less exposed to atmospheric influence.

Good cream raising can be only obtained by keeping the milk as sweet as possible and skimming off the cream while the milk is sweet.

If the churning is done at too low a temperature in making granular butter, the butter will be crumbly.

In making good butter attention to the proper ripening of the cream is of more importance than skill in manipulation.

Cream should always be stirred well twice a day. This helps to ripen it evenly and prevents white specks showing in the butter.

In driving cows never hurry them when their udders are full of milk, or they are heavy in calf, as they may be seriously injured.

If a dairy cow is properly fed and cared for she will do her best, but she will never do all that she is capable of without good care.

In making good butter there is always plenty of time to do everything just right. If you find there is not time then you are not making good butter.

It is better to breed and raise the dairy cows than to buy them. Breed them right with a good dairy bred sire and you will get more good cows.

### Moist Feed for Horses.

"I believe many farmers do not realize the difference between feeding work horses dry or moist feed," says a correspondent to "Rural World." To feed the last, it will have to be cut into pieces from one to two inches long, and the grain ground. Having had a little experience this past winter I will give it. I began wintering a two-year-old colt, feeding it corn and fodder dry, was working it half a day at a time, just enough to get it well broken by spring. Along about Christmas its coat was rough, it had a slight cough and showed signs of worms, so much so that I inquired for some tobacco stems to doctor it for worms, but concluded I would rig up an old cutting box that had been kicked about for three or four years, and change the colt's feed. I did so, cut clover hay, putting on it a mixture of bran, ship-stuff and cornmeal, with a little salt each time, stirring it all together with enough warm water to moisten it well. In less than a month the colt quit coughing. I gave it no medicine for worms, and if he keeps on improving will have to give him steady work in order to hold him level. I have heard about putting the whip in the manger but never realized how to do it, or just how it could be done so easily.

Now the rest of you can feed your horses as you like, but when my old cutting box plays out I will make another. I like to drive a horse that goes as if it was just fun, and when I drive along the street see people looking at my team. I never have figured out the dif-

ference in dollars and cents, or the difference in time it takes to feed nor do I intend to. I believe in keeping an animal for the good of the animal.

### Brief Farm Opinions.

Appreciation of hardy ornamental plants is growing and each year sees a larger sale. The demand is bound to increase rapidly.—M. E. L., New Plymouth, O.

I have found apples fed properly, from a peck to half a bushel per day, most excellent for cows in milk, for young stock and for fattening animals.—Orlins McFadden, Lincoln County, Me.

We are making a mistake in not raising more colts, but much depends upon good ancestry and we should not breed from a small animal.—George Searle, Hampshire County, Mass.

I think well of rape for a fall feed for sheep, if it can be grown so as to let the sheep harvest it. This is especially valuable if we have a dry autumn and short pastures. I find roots very valuable for part of the winter feed for cows, young cattle and sheep. I also feed herring pomace quite liberally to sheep in winter.—A. W. Fisher, Charlotte, Me.

The most important problem facing the farmer today is the old one of help. Scarce and inefficient is the universal testimony. I am safe in saying that we could in this country, have employed three times as many farm laborers as we had. A case came under my notice of an advertisement, "A young man wants place on farm for the winter." In twenty-four hours he had twenty replies, and still they came.—F. C. W., Me.

### Feeding Horses for Work.

The amount of food required is proportional to the amount of work performed. The amount of food required is also proportional to the speed with which the work is done.

More energy and consequently more food are required by a horse when drawing a load at a trot than at a walk.

Worry, confusion, fast driving and much stopping, sudden, short and severe labor, all consume much energy and require extra food.

Generally speaking, it is believed that truck horses drawing heavy loads slowly over good roads, required less food than express and cab horses.

Horses doing severe work require more protein than those engaged in light work.

The proportion of protein to carbohydrates (nutritive ratio) required by horses doing moderate work should be about one to seven or eight, and for horses doing heavy work as one to five or six.

Generally speaking, twelve or fifteen pounds each of hay and grain daily are sufficient for horses of 1,200 to 1,300 pounds weight doing moderately hard work.

### Sheep Notes.

Keep the flock as even as possible.

Sheep to be of the most profit must be well cared for at all times.

If there is little profit in good sheep how much less is there in poor ones.

Filth is not congenial to the fastidious habits of the sheep.

A grain fed flock will yield nine pounds more per head of wool than one poorly fed.

It is an exceptional case when the keeping of old sheep can be made profitable.

Sheep should be fed with good feed and a variety rather than a great quantity.

Retain the ewe that produces fine large active lambs and that is a good nurse.

Thirty ewes to one ram is enough, better to have the number too small than too large.

Sheep will live better and do better with the same care than any other animal on the farm.

For quick fattening at all times it is best to put the sheep in pens with enough room to allow them to turn nicely.

### The Black Locust.

On every farm that is more or less devoted to stock grazing there is great need of shade in each pasture, fences strong and durable are needed to restrain the stock. There is one tree of all others that is admirably adapted to meet both requirements and that is the black locust, says a writer in a western exchange. Growing in groves in the pasture it does not interfere in anyway with the production of grass, for being a legume of lofty habit, grass will grow close around the trunk and be of nearly full strength from an abundance of sunshine near the roots. Closely grown, nature does the pruning; otherwise they should be trimmed to nearly a whip. They grow well on thin rough land such as is found on thousands of farms, growing worthless shrubs, briars and weeds, which might be the most remunerative acre on the farm if planted thickly in black locust. In reality, there need be no waste land.

The post crop may be seven, eight, ten or even twelve years in maturing but all the time post timber is getting scarcer and higher. At seven years one post may be had but often it is policy to keep the axe off until the tenth mile stone has been passed when the tree will have increased in height and diameter sufficiently to make three or four posts. A tall tree that will clear thirty-two feet will cut four sections of eight feet each; the first may be quartered, the second may make two or three, the third one or two and the top section one, making eight or ten posts according to size of trunk. Locust posts are very durable, being good for from fifteen to forty years, according to diameter and age when cut. Another point, they hold nails and staples as firmly as most woods do screws. Another place where the locust does its dual purpose stunt admirably is as a shade tree along the highway. Farms so beautified and provided attract buyers.

Farmers' Guide.

### Three Acres and a Cow.

The term "three acres and a cow," which was at one time quite prominent in English farm discussions, was originally suggested as a remedy for the lack of employment among mechanics and laborers. The idea was that if each workman could secure possession of a small place, he would become, in a measure, independent during a period of hard times. The actual suggestion was three and one fourth acres, the one-fourth acre to be devoted to an orchard in which the cow could graze occasionally. The rests of the land he desired to devote as follows: Potatoes, one-half acre; turnips, one-fourth acre; winter vetch, one-half acre; spring vetch, one-fourth acre; barley, wheat or oats, three-fourths acre; clover and grass, three-fourths acre. He estimated that the product of this land would be worth about \$100, and would keep the occupier above actual want.

### Testing Seed Corn.

Take a shallow tin baking pan and two sheets of cloth about the size of the pan. Place the kernels of corn between the cloths, keep the cloths moist and in a room where the temperature is sixty to seventy degrees. Watch the development daily and in a week all that is worth planting will have germinated. Cast aside any seed corn from which the kernels show a weak spindling growth in the test, for it is not worth planting.

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# Pieces to Speak

## Winter Time.

Late lies the wintry sun abed;  
A frosty fiery sleepy head;  
Blinks but an hour or two and then  
A blood-red orange sets again—

Close by the jolly fire I sit  
To warm my frozen bones a bit;  
Or with a reindeer-sled explore  
The colder countries 'round the door.

Black are my steps on silver sod;  
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad.  
And tree and house, and hill and lake  
Are frosted like a wedding cake.

*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

## Christmas Eve.

Christmas eve is here at last,  
Come with bells a-ringing  
Holly wreaths and mistletoe,  
Trees that twinkling tapers show  
Happy faces all aglow,  
Christmas eve is bringing.

Christmas morning's here at last  
Come with tuneful singing;  
Stockings full for you and me,  
Treasures neath the Christmas tree  
Hearts that beat with mirth and glee,  
Christmas day is bringing.

Hear us praise you good St. Nick  
On this day's glad dawning  
Hear us sing with might and main  
May your shadow never wane,  
Richer blessings on us rain  
Every Christmas morning,

## The Frost Tree.

This morning, sleepy little Fred—  
Full of soft cobwebs was his brain  
Which sleep had spun there—from his bed  
Crept, to discover, fresh and plain,  
A silver picture on the pane.

It was a fir tree, large, entire,  
With lower boughs bent heavily,  
And peak as pointed as a spire;  
While every twig against the sky  
Pointed as if with a diamond eye.

Fred wondered; and drew near to look  
An instant; then called out with glee,  
To Gold-Locks, early at her book  
Of fairy tales, to come and see  
His beautiful white Christmas tree.

*Selected.*

## Christmas Bells.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of "peace on earth, good will to men."

And tho't how as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had roll'd along the unbroken song  
Of "peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep  
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep  
The Wrong shall fall, the Right prevail  
With "peace on earth, good will to men."

*Tennyson.*

## Santa Claus.

Oh, Santa Claus, the dear old man,  
With cheeks and eyes aglow,  
Puts dollies in his Christmas bag  
For all the girls, you know.

And then he runs and gets the horns,  
The horns and drums and sticks,  
Skates and balls and guns, for boys,  
All tumbled in a mix.

Then last he puts some candy in,  
Nuts, raisins, figs, and dates,  
Then ties a string about his bag,  
And hurries to his gates.

There stand his sleigh and reindeer four,  
All prancing up and down,  
In such a hurry to be gone  
'Way off to Children's town.

In goes the bag, then Santa Claus,  
And off they go in glee,  
Down through the great big chimney tops  
To fill each Christmas tree.

*Mally Graham Lord.*

## Love's Garden.

There is a quiet garden  
From the rude world set apart,  
Where seeds for Christ are growing;  
This is the loving heart.

The tiny roots are loving thoughts,  
Sweet words, the fragrant flowers  
Which blossom into loving deeds,—  
Ripe fruit for harvest hours.

Thus in our hearts the seeds of love  
Are growing year by year;  
And we show our love for the Saviour,  
By loving His children here.

*Ellen Robena Field.*

## Christmas Carol.

Sing we all merrily,  
Christmas is here  
The day that we love best,  
Of days in the year.

Bring forth the holly,  
The box and the bay  
Deck out our cottage  
For Glad Christmas Day—

Sing we all merrily  
Draw round the fire  
Sister and brother  
Grandson and sire.

## Sanctuary.

Here on the hearth is cheering blaze;  
Here is the coaxing inglenook,  
With pipe, mayhaps, to raise  
Above the dream inspiring book.  
So, shut the door when night is come;  
Forget the world that lies without—  
The world of problems wearisome,  
Of worries, of defeat and doubt.

Bar out the world, learn to forget  
The echo of its rasping calls;  
Let neither care, nor fear, nor fret,  
Find footspace once within your walls.  
Forget the babel of the street;  
Forget the roughness of the way;  
For here are blossoms fair and sweet,  
Outside are shadows dull and gray.

Be this your sanctuary, then,  
What of tomorrow? It may wait,  
For here is hearth and home again,  
And here contentment holds its state,  
These four walls shield us round about,  
What greater peace is there to win?  
Now all the darkness is shut out,  
And all the light and love locked in.  
*W. D. Nesbit, in the Reader Magazine.*

## The Baby's Stocking.

Hang up the baby's stocking,  
Be sure you don't forget;  
The dear little dimpled darling,  
She ne'er saw Christmas yet.  
But I've told her all about it  
And she opened her blue eyes;  
And I'm sure she understands it,  
She looks so funny and wise.

Dear! what a tiny stocking,  
It doesn't take much to hold  
Such little pink toes as baby's  
Away from the frost and cold.  
But then for the baby's Christmas  
It will never do at all;  
Why, Santa Claus wouldn't be looking  
For anything half so small.

I know what we'll do for the baby,  
I've thought of the very best plan,  
I'll borrow a stocking from Grandma,  
The largest I ever can;  
And you'll hang it by mine, dear mother,  
Right here in the corner, so,  
And write a letter to Santa Claus  
And fasten it on the toe.

Write, "This is the baby's stocking  
That hangs in the corner here,  
You have never seen her, Santa,  
For she only came this year;  
But she's the blessedest baby;  
And now before you go,  
Just cram her stocking with goodies  
From the top clean down to the toe."

## A Word with Santa Claus.

'Sh—'I've got out of bed, just a minute,  
To tell you—I'll whisper it low—  
The stockings I hung by the fire  
Are for me—not for mamma, you know,  
For mine are so awfully little,  
Dear Santa Claus, don't you see?  
And I want, oh! so many playthings  
They won't hold enough for me.  
So I want you to surely remember,  
And fill these as full as you can;  
'Cause I haven't been very naughty,  
And—you're such a nice kind man!  
I'd like a live doll, if you please sir,  
That can talk and call me "mamma";  
Not one that is full of saw dust,  
As all my other dolls are.

*Primary Education.*

## Winter Blossoms.

Do you know the corn that blossoms  
In the cold, cold Winter time,  
When the merry fires are burning,  
And the jolly sleigh-bells' chime  
Rings out upon the crisp air,  
Making music as they go?  
So the corn that blossoms for us  
Comes to us with Winter's snow.

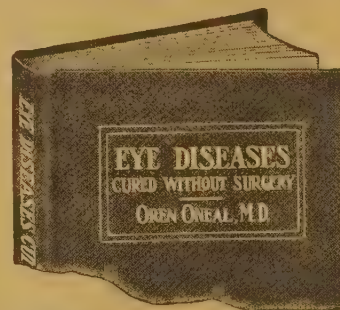
Near a hot, hot fire it blossoms,  
Without leaf or stem or stalk;  
And as faster runs the popper,  
Faster, faster do we talk,  
Until the corn sends blossoms,  
All as white and pure as snow.  
Then we gladly shake the blossoms  
From the popper where they grow.

*Emma Louise Clapp In Child Garden.*

Vick's for 1906 will be larger and better than ever before. We have an attractive list of good things for our readers and feel sure that those who send us fifty cents for a yearly subscription, or one dollar for three years, will be more than pleased with the investment. Look up our club offers on page 31.

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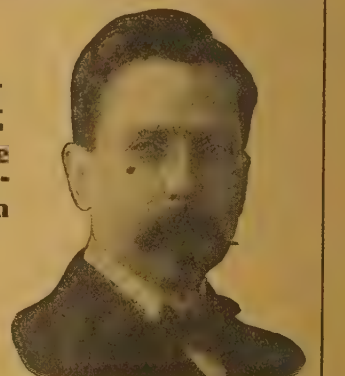
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## Santa Claus and the Mouse.

One Christmas eve, when Santa Claus  
Came to a certain house  
To fill the children's stockings there,  
He found a little mouse.

"A merry Christmas, little friend,"  
Said Santa, good and kind.  
"The same to you, sir," said the mouse;  
"I thought you wouldn't mind

"If I should stay awake to-night  
And watch you for awhile."  
"You're very welcome, little mouse,"  
Said Santa with a smile.

And then he filled the stockings up  
Before the mouse could wink—  
From toe to top from top to toe,  
There wasn't left a clink.

"Now, they won't hold another thing,"  
Said Santa Claus, with pride.  
A twinkle came in mouse's eyes,  
But humbly he replied:

"It's not polite to contradict—  
Your pardon I implore—  
But in the fullest stocking there  
I could put one thing more."

"Oh, ho!" laughed Santa, "silly mouse.  
Don't I know how to pack  
By filling stockings all these years,  
I should have learned the knack."

And then he took the stocking down  
From where it hung so high,  
And said: "Now put in one thing more;  
I give you leave to try."

The mouse chuckled to himself.  
And then he softly stole  
Right to the stocking's crowded toe  
And gnawed a little hole!

"Now, if you please, good Santa Claus,  
I've put in one thing more;  
For you will own that little hole  
Was not in there before."

How Santa Claus did laugh and laugh!  
And then he gayly spoke.  
"Well! you shall have a Christmas cheese  
For that nice little joke."

If you don't think this story true,  
Why! I can show to you  
The very stocking with the hole  
The little mouse gnawed through.  
*Emilie Poulsson in St. Nicholas.*

## When December 25th Was Chosen.

Why the 25th of December should have been universally adopted as the day on which Jesus Christ first showed himself in human form, cannot be definitely explained. So much is certain, that the real date of the event is not known. The evidences that we possess regarding it are both traditional and conflicting. The Christians of the western churches appear to have been the first to adopt December 25th as the day for celebrating the nativity of Christ. This having been observed by the ancient pagan nations as "the birthday of the unconquered sun," it found favor with the new converts to Christianity. Probably this is the reason why the custom of the western churches prevailed. St. Chrysostom, who died in the beginning of the fifth century, relates that Julius I., Bishop of Rome from 337 to 352, caused strict inquiries to be made regarding the date, and thereafter following what seemed to be the best authenticated tradition, settled authoritatively December 25th as the anniversary of Christ's birthday.

## The Myth of Santa Claus.

There are many parents who shudder at the myth of Santa Claus, an invisible being, that brings the children gifts; but that invisible being, to the child's weak apprehension, is the foreshadowing of the All-Giver, the forerunner of the One who came to man on that blessed Christmas night. No rough voice and no ignorant soul should ever tell the little child that Santa Claus does not exist, for Santa Claus is the foreshadowing of the All-Giver, All-Lover, the One who gives because He loves.

## Table Decorations

(Continued from page seven)

But quite the most enjoyable house of all is one made similar to the last mentioned house, with the door left on. The door is closed but a bell hangs where the door knob should be and tied to it is a scarlet ribbon. Each guest is privileged to pull "the bobbin" before sitting down to the table. When you ring the bell the door opens and a maid appears with a salver, then a coin must be dropped on it. The door shuts and soon reopens; this time a boy appears trundling a little truck holding a package, your little gift. The mechanism is very simple for such delightful results, as the children enjoy it with great glee. This house in its square, sets well toward the back part of the table. A curtain forms the back wall through which the manipulator can manage the little dolls that stand on wooden grooves. The operator should not be seen or should make the necessary motions unsuspected by the children. This may be achieved by having the back of the house stand even with the edge of the table with no curtain at the back and a curtain depending from the ceiling behind which the operator is concealed. The coins the children use are candy beans.

Decorations for the Christmas Dinner Table—A charming arrangement to hang from the chandelier is a cluster of Christmas bells. With fine wire netting the bells may be easily made at home. Shape the wire for the large bell and for six or seven smaller ones to depend from the rim. Cover the wire surface with tiny immortelles—the stems run through—and edge with holly only the large bell. A star of holly rests on the table under the bells with a cluster of white carnations or roses on it. Ribbons attached to all the bell clappers are carried to similar bells as place souvenirs. These are decorated with holly. Inside each bell is found a Christmas greeting from the hostess suitable for the guest. This greeting is home-made, as it then bears the hall-mark of personal thought, and in its simplicity is valued as a store bought card of greeting never could be. My hostess of the "bells" made her fancy cards of heavy wrapping paper with the edges roughly cut. On some she inscribed lines from a quaint old carol if that was suitable for the person; on others it would be a parody on a bit of well-known verse of song, or she sketched a bar of music and improvised words to suit. When the lettering was done in old English, in red and gold, the card was rolled up, tied with red ribbon through which a sprig of holly was run and slipped under each bell. These bells for Christmas decorations may be purchased in any size at a small price and if you would like a chime of them to grace your table arrange a wire frame. Cover it with holly and depend a bell from each length. The bells should be covered with hollyred paper and for the clappers have tiny red incandescent lights, that will reflect beautifully if you place a round or oval mirror under them, circled with its wreath of holly. Attach metal bells to the ends of the holly favor-ribbons.

A charming Christmas table decoration has for its motif the "guiding star". From the base of a large cake star-points radiate, outlined in holly, on which candles in green, red and white stand. Smaller candles in these colors decorate a perfect shaped little Christmas tree that rises from the center of the cake. Its branches are gay with Christmas souvenirs. The cake is frosted in white and a wreath of holly encircles the top.

A snowy effect is a pretty one for the Christmas dinner table. Have white candles set in glass holders. Pick out fluffy cotton batting, and cover the shades with it. It will adhere nicely if the paper shades are first brushed over with library paste. Depend a fringe from the edges, of bead icicles. The favors are cotton snowballs covered with diamond dust. These enclose the little souvenir for the occasion. For the center piece have a mirror bordered with mistletoe, on which rests a large glass fruit dish filled with white crystallized grapes. To further add to the glistening, frosty effect, scatter rock candy among the grapes and in the mistletoe border. A

rosy glow from the chandelier shade will enhance the beautiful effect.

Stars are a simple decoration. Have four of a suitable size, one laid at each corner of the lace centerpiece. They are made of scarlet immortelles. A smaller size with a sprig each of holly and mistletoe tied on with ribbon would make a pretty souvenir. Decorate the candle shades with red and green stars, and the service plates might have bands of vivid green or red.

The wreath decoration is also a simple one. They are made of scarlet immortelles. A large size for the center one in which the candelabra might stand, of silver with red candles. The wreaths are all tied with green ribbons, and on the streamers of the small ones, lettered in gilt, are the guest's name and "Merry Christmas."

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It contains Six Candy Tablets of pleasant taste, almost as pleasant as chocolate.

Each tablet is a working dose of Cascarets, which acts like Exercise on the Bowels and Liver.

It will not purge, sicken, nor upset the stomach.

Because it is not a "Bile-driver," like Salts, Sodium, Calomel, Jalap, Senna, nor Aperient Waters.

These waste Digestive Juices of the system needed tomorrow, in merely flushing out the Bowels today.

Neither is it like Castor Oil, Glycerine, or other Oily Laxatives that simply lubricate the Intestines for transit of

the food stopped up in them at that particular time.

These emergency drugs relieve the immediate trouble, but do not relieve its Cause.

The same trouble will therefore recur again till that Cause is removed permanently.

The chief cause of Constipation and Indigestion is a weakness of the Muscles that contract the Intestines and Bowels.

Cascarets are practically to the Bowel Muscles what a Massage and Cold Bath are to the Athletic Muscles.



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This FOUNTAIN PEN has a point of the best composite metal, heavily plated with 14-karat gold. The barrel is of the best Para rubber, beautifully chased and has a tight screw section. One filling will last several days, used almost constantly. It does not drop ink. It has the same feed as any

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It's the magazine of the year and above offer is made for a limited time only. It's always bright, good short stories, departments for the home, education, industrial, financial, women, music, religion, the farm, invention, etc.

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**The MIDDLE-WEST ADVOCATE**  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS



Showing size of "Vest Pocket" Cascares Box compared to Watch.

They stimulate the Bowel Muscles to contract, expand, and squeeze the Digestive Juices out of food eaten.

Cascarets do this naturally, without purging or discomfort.

They don't help the Bowels and Liver in such a way as to make them lean upon similar assistance for the future.

This is why, with Cascarets, the dose may be lessened each succeeding time instead of increased, as it must be with all succeeding doses of other Cathartics and Laxatives.

Cascarets act like exercise.

If carried in your Vest Pocket, (or carried in My Lady's Purse), and eaten just when you suspect you need one, you will never know a sick day from the ordinary ills of life.

Because, nearly all these ills begin in the Bowels, and partial Constipation paves the way for

all other Diseases.

"Vest Pocket" box 10 cents.

Be sure you get the genuine, made only by the Sterling Remedy Company, and never sold in bulk. Every tablet stamped "CCC."

## FREE TO OUR FRIENDS!

We want to send to our friends a beautiful French-designed GOLD-PLATED BONBON BOX hard-enamelled in colors. It is a beauty for the dressing table. Ten cents in stamps is asked as a measure of good faith and to cover cost of Cascarets with which this dainty trinket is loaded. Send to-day, mentioning this paper. Address: Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago or New York.





The tenth in a series of twelve articles by Chester A. Olmstead, the well-known authority on honey bees. I hope these articles which began in our March issue, will induce many of my readers to keep one or more colonies of these wonderful little workers.—Ed.

The wealth of a colony of bees consists of four different products, honey, beeswax, pollen and propolis, and unlike the riches of mankind they are all necessities of life. As soon as a colony of bees have accepted a hive or any place as a home they go to the fields—that is, a part of them—and gather the nectar from the flowers. This nectar is usually quite thin and watery when taken from the flowers, but the bees work it over and get rid of some of the water in converting it into honey.

As there is no comb in their new home in which to store this honey they give it to other bees and in a few hours all are literally gorged with honey. As soon as they are in this condition they begin to secrete wax.

A bee's body—the part back of its wings is composed of fine very thin scale-like bands, one partly inside of another, just like the slides of a telescope. The wax is secreted on the underside of the body, between the first and second, second and third, third and fourth bands. It is in the form of a scale and about the size of a pin head, but not so thick. They are in pairs, forming a row of three on the right and three on the left of a central line along the body. These scales are pure white bee's wax. The bees take them and stick them on where they want to build a comb, and keep adding one to another pinching them together with their mandibles and forming the most delicate wax work in existence, so delicate that it would be folly for man to try to imitate it, yet occasionally standard magazines and dailies have published statements to the effect that much of the beautiful looking comb honey on the market is manufactured, that the comb is stamped out of paraffine wax and filled with cheap syrup. Such stories are ridiculous, and work injury to those engaged in the bee business. Such publishers need not willingly hurt any legitimate business, but owing to the nature of a bee, many things about them seem mysterious.

To counteract the effect of these stories the A. J. Root Co., Medina, O., capitalized at \$300,000, all paid in, have for years had a standing offer of \$1,000 to anyone furnishing them a pound of artificial comb honey.

The National Bee-keepers' Association offers a like amount, backed by their treasury and the purses of its thousands of members. If you wish to know more about this association, write its Secretary, Editor Bee-keepers' Review, Flint, Mich., or the above named firm.

I have told how bees use the pollen in rearing young bees, and will now tell how they gather it. It is a floury substance easily seen on the anthers of the lily and poppy, also in the blossoms of the squash, pumpkin and other garden vines.

The tip of a bee's tongue is much like a little brush, and when moistened with honey the pollen sticks to it. She then reaches up with her first leg and wipes it off. It is now on her front leg, or we may say, she has it in her hand and in a very dexterous way she reaches back to her third or hind leg and packs it into a little ball in what is called the pollen baskets.

These baskets are merely a flat surface just above the knee joint. They are covered with little sharp spines or stiff hairs and the pollen when packed on nicely stays until she gets to the home and kicks it off. Sometimes they bring a ball the size of half a wheat kernel on each hind leg.

The propolis I have spoken of is a resinous substance which they find on the buds of certain trees. Poplar tree buds are heavily coated with it, I suppose to protect the buds in cold and bad weather. The bees nip this off and put it in their pollen baskets and use it to stop all cracks and crevices that may be in their hive.

When fresh it is quite soft and very sticky, but soon gets hard and brittle like resin, or more like sealing wax. It is of no use to man but the bees prize it highly, and the inside of an old hive will be completely coated with it, thus preventing moisture from soaking into the wood.

## Why Hanson Alright Failed.

(Continued from page five)

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity—love—I am become as sounding brass, and as a tinkling cymbal:

"Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned and have not love, it profiteth me nothing."

There was such a long silence in the library that Viola began to grow frightened at her presumption. "You can go," he said at last.

Then he remembered that the door was locked and rose to let her out. He opened the door without raising his eyes, and she passed out silently.

When the Alrights left Brierville for their summer home at "Tower Beach," Viola Nichols went with them as companion to the invalid aunt, and the usual guests missed their invitations. The aunt must have failed very much in health, the townspeople thought. They also wondered how it happened that Viola Nichols was chosen to be companion, as the Alrights had never taken any notice of her. Everyone was glad for Viola, except Mrs. Randall, who while she did not approve of making a companion of hired help, even if they were her superior, yet she appreciated faithful service and an agreeable presence in the house, which was rarely to be found.

The Alrights did not return to Brierville that winter, neither did Viola Nichols. The invalid aunt would see something of the city. Brierville was not much disturbed over that, and was not surprised that Viola "wore well." But Brierville was a good deal disturbed when it was made known that Viola Nichols wore so well that Hanson Alright had taken her for a companion for life.

Viola Nichols is Alright now, and the Jacob's homestead is again for sale.

## A Fakir's Confession

(Continued from page twelve)

looked it over, at the same time asking many questions that I hoped would lead to a deal. Ganly apparently turned all attention to me and I pretended to be so much absorbed in the 'great improvement' that I lost all track of Wilson. He couldn't stand it long, and soon was anxiously looking over the cuts and reading matter and asking questions. I then let up, except to aid in keeping the thread of conversation in running order. At the critical period Ganly said, addressing me, 'You farmers can make lots of money by selling these churns. I can't make a personal canvass everywhere. Wherever I go sales are about as quick as I can explain the churns. This is because our goods sell themselves. Now, you can see for yourself, by these names on my book here that I have earned over fifty dollars in two days. I want to appoint town or county agents. I want good reliable men and no others.' I said I was going to see most of the farmers in the county with a view of buying their produce, and if he would let me make it a side matter I would try it. He said he didn't think I could do it justice. At this time Wilson said if he had a sample for trial he might be able to sell some of them. Ganly then said, 'The town of Ulysses is probably all that you can attend to for the present, at least, and as the orders I have received are mostly in that town and I would turn them over to you, you could get rid of the usual first order of twenty in a week and make a snug sum out of it,' adding that he could take the orders that he, Ganly, had, nearly twenty, and he would guarantee to sell twenty more. He had no doubt I was all right, but he preferred a permanent agent. Still, rather than

spend too much time he had better, perhaps, let me have it. Wilson then showed anxiety, and said he might try it for a while and do the best he could with it. Ganly then said, 'All right, and if your friend here and you can make arrangements to work together that is for you gentlemen to determine. I said I was willing to take hold with Wilson. The latter, seeming to want all there was in it, said, 'we will see about that.' A running conversation between us followed, until Ganly had filled out the following order, which, owing to my seeming anxiety for the agency, Wilson eagerly signed:

### THE FARMER'S DOUBLE DASH CHURN.

General Office, Broadway, New York.

Factory, Auburn, N. Y.

Please ship me by freight to Ithaca Station, N. Y., Forty Improved Double Dash Churns, which I will sell in the town of Ulysses, Tompkins County, N. Y., only reference being had to the following agreement which I have this day made with your agent, namely, I am to give the Company above named nine-twelfths of the retail price for the first order, which I will sell at Twelve Dollars (\$12) each in consideration of the exclusive right to sell said goods in said township above named, so long as I sell twenty per year. It is further agreed by the parties that all further orders are to be settled for with the Company or their Traveling Agent at seven-twelfths the retail price above named, and no agent is authorized to make any contract or verbal promise differing in any way from the foregoing. Dated June 6th, 1899. ANDREW WILSON, P. O. Address, Jacksonville, N. Y. W. MOREAU, Agent for Co.

"Then, Ganly said, 'Mr. Wilson, as an evidence of good faith all around here is an obligation to be filed with the company and to be used only after sufficient goods are sold to pay it.' (This is the obligation or note):

No. 10.

### A ROBBER'S NOTE.

Town of Ulysses, Tompkins Co., N. Y., June 6, 1899.

Six months after date I promise to pay to the order of myself, four hundred and eighty dollars, value received, with use.

ANDREW WILSON.

This note is given as a guarantee for payment for goods in the hands of Mr. Andrew Wilson, our agent, and is not transferable, except to him and upon payment from proceeds of sale of churns this day ordered by said Wilson.

\$480.

W. MOREAU, Gen'l Ag't for Co.

"Wilson was not a little annoyed after he took the second paper in his hand. He read it over carefully and, had the latter clause not been in it, he would not dream of signing it. As it was, things looked scaly. However, he held the pen in his hand after signing the order, and, as a rule, when a farmer signs one paper he will write his name as often as you ask him to on another. While he was signing the note Ganly said it made the company feel good to know that their agents are responsible, and therefore they do better by them. He then turned the order over and almost blindly the farmer signed his name under the following iron-clad statement of his ownership of property:

For the purpose of satisfying the within-named company of my responsibility for this and all future orders that I may give them for machines, hereby certify that I own in my own name and right 170 acres of land in the county of Tompkins, State of New York, free and clear of all incumbrances, valued at \$80 per acre.

ANDREW WILSON.

"Having completed our arrangements and secured a robber's note, our next anxiety was to get away. Ganly said, 'Mr. Wilson, I forgot to say that I will send you a lot of circulars.' Then after getting his address and saying he hoped to hear from him every few weeks, he bade him and I good day and drove westward. The farmer and I then renewed our talk of purchasing his crop, and thus took the farmer's attention from patent churns. I finally agreed to take the crop. (We had already taken it.) I took a memoranda of acres, etc., said I would send a statement to the house, where a memoranda of agreement would be filled out and with an advance check sent to Wilson for acceptance in a few days. After a few common-place remarks I bade our victim good day and drove toward Trumansburg. I took a circuitous drive and Ganly and I met there, and after some delay raked in \$400 for Wilson's note, which, of course, we had cut loose from the last and invalidating clause.

"We then went to Geneva and stayed a few days, where we made our plans to touch up Seneca county farmers on the lightning-rod racket, in which we succeeded beyond our fondest expectations."

(Continued in our January issue)

## E. Z. MONEY FOR XMAS.

In order to advertise and distribute thoroughly our catalogue all over the U. S., we will give \$10 in GOLD to the school boy or girl or any person who will send us the largest list of names and addresses of friends and neighbors living in your locality. All lists must be accompanied with 10 cents silver or stamps to cover return postage on our Christmas catalogue. Address

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In order to introduce The Pacific Monthly to a large number of new readers, we have decided to make the most liberal offer that has ever been made in the history of periodical publishing.

No Western magazine has ever before attempted the great work which The Pacific Monthly is doing. It is in a class by itself. The Pacific Monthly depicts thoroughly the great movements which are making for the Supremacy of the Pacific. It is characteristically western. It tells you about the opportunities, development and progress; yet it is of genuine interest for many other reasons. It is beautifully and elaborately illustrated.

1st: For \$1.50 we will send you the Pacific Monthly for one year and a gold fountain pen which retails for \$2.50. We guarantee this pen to be high grade and the superior of any \$1.00 pen made. If it is unsatisfactory in any respect you may return it and get your money back.

2nd: For Three Dollars we will send you for one year The Pacific Monthly, The Review of Reviews, the Cosmopolitan and the Woman's Home Companion. This is the lowest offer ever made by a publishing house. It is giving Six Dollars for three dollars.

Write us today filling our enclosed blank.

The Pacific Monthly, Portland, Oregon.

Enclosed find \$1.50 (mark out sum not enclosed)

for which send me The Pacific Monthly and fountain pen (or) The Pacific Monthly, The Review of Reviews, The Cosmopolitan and the Woman's Home Companion.

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Vick Publishing Company.

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## Going Back to the Farm

I've packed my traps and I'm goin' back where the fields are green and broad, And the colts, with their legs all doubled up, are rollin' on the sod; They'll smile, I s'pose, when they see me come, and they'll, some of them, likely say They thought I'd forsaken the farm for good the day that I went away— But let 'em smile—I'm going back—I'm sick of the noise and fuss, Where a couple of dollars count for more than the life of a common cuss; They'll nobody notice I've went away—if you told 'em they wouldn't care, But somebody's face'll be full of joy when she greets her boy back there.

I'm goin' back for I've had my fill—I've saw what there is to see; The city may still be the place for you, but it's lost its charm for me; And won't I be lonesome there, you say, with the people so far apart? Well mebbe, they're few and far between, but each of 'em's got a heart; There ain't no hundreds of thousands there to push you around, I know, Not carin' a cent where you're comin' from or where you're tryin' to go— For the one that's jostled day after day with never a friend to greet, There ain't no lonesomer place on earth than the city's crowded street.

I'm goin' back where the dog's asleep on the step by the kitchen door. With his nose pushed down between his paws—I'm sick of the smoke and roar; There's money to make where the crowds are thick and they're tryin' to rip things loose— There's money to get if you've the grit, but, dang it all! what's the use? They hustle for dollars, all through the day, and dream of dollars in bed. And forgive the gougins' a fellow may do as long as he gets ahead— They hustle and bustle and coop themselves in dark little holes and fret, And honor a person accordin' to the money he's managed to get.

I'm goin' back where the poplars stand in tall rows down the lane, Where the hobsled's settin' beside the barn, defyin' the sun and rain;

Where the birds are singin' away as though they were hired to fill the air With a sweetness that nobody ever can know who was never a boy out there; I'm goin' back where they'll not expect me to sit in the kitchen when I'm courtin' the girl I love because I'm workin' for other men— Where the richest among 'em'll shake my hand, instead of lettin' me see That they think the money they've got must make them a blame sight better than me.

I'm goin' back, and you'll stay here and rush, in the same old way, Goin' to work and then goin' home—the same thing day by day— And you'll think you're havin' a high old time and I'll pity you, lookin' back

(From where I whistle across the fields) at you in the same old track!— I'm goin' back, but the crowds won't know, and they'll still keep rushin' on;

They'll never notice that some one's face is missin' when I am gone—

No, they'll never notice that some one's gone—if they did they wouldn't care—

But every tree'll be noddin' to me when I turn up the lane back there.

Farm Life.

## A Green Christmas

(Continued from page six)

dren did not suspect a trick, so they followed reluctantly, for they had never cared to explore the bush back from the lake for fear of alligators. What was their delight, when they saw through the trees a well known twinkle.

"Christmas candles!" shouted Ned, and then the five crushed through the tangle of yellow jasmine vines to where a splendid, shapely young Florida holly, just as it grew, with a ring cleared about its base, stood bravely lighted, and loaded with presents.

There were enough of them to make a ring about the tree as they all joined hands and sang, "While shepherds watched their flocks," and then their father, who somehow looked straighter and stronger than usual, clipped the gorgeous fruit from off the growing holly, and it seemed that everybody had exactly what they wanted, even to Sam who had worked like a Trojan to complete the arrangements for those two night-pitched camps, for there was just the hammerless gun that he had expatiated upon by the hour to Ned and Ray.

"I've discovered something else," said Ray softly that night, creeping close to her mother.

"Well, what is it, Miss Columbus?" "That it is a shame to doubt old Santa Clans, because he can drive through the woods just as well as he can scramble down a chimney."

"Could you enjoy one more Christmas surprise?" asked Mrs. Pollock after a bit, and the twins wondered what it could be.

"Well then, it is this. In two more months we can go home, and your father will be quite well again. Now don't you think it was worth while to make Old Santa find his way through the Florida woods to make such a thing as this happen?"

## Ophelia Isabella's Christmas

(Continued from page ten)

cision, and being pressed for a reason, Phely answered briefly that "the baby'd squall."

"Oh,—the baby?" Miss Lovett was somewhat taken aback, but she returned to the charge.

"Isn't there any one else to take care of the baby?" she demanded severely.

"They twins aint no good," returned Phely, with fine scorn.

"But your mother?" persisted Miss Lovett. "Out washing? Not on Sundays, child, surely."

"That's her day off," admitted Phely, reluctantly. "But I has the baby"—as if this fact had no gainsaying.

Miss Lovett thought a minute. "Well," she said presently, "if I see your mother and arrange about the baby, then will you come? faithfully, every Sunday, I mean, Ophelia."

On this condition, Phely thought "likely" she would; and I may as well state here that Miss Lovett's good offices, backed as they were by offers of suitable clothing, and other substantial benefits, were presently successful, and Phely became a devoted attendant at St. Mary's, developing promptly into a rabid little ritualist, punctilious in crossing and genuflection, and fighting her church's battles tooth and nail with any luckless heathen who ventured to disparage it, but eventually subsiding into a stanch and decorous little churchwoman, to the notable improvement of her morals and manners.

But now the wonderful evening was only just begun, and Phely was on tip-toe with delight. The prayers at the beginning, short as they were, rather bored this small heathen, and she grew somewhat impatient, but the carols delighted her very soul; and when at last the wonderful business of distributing the gifts actually began, she was in a perfect tumult of delight.

And almost the very first name called was her own—actually her own, all before folks! "Ophelia Isabella"—Massy! didn't it sound fine?

She stood up in her place in wild excitement, as one of the boys who distributed the gifts came down the aisle, and when a doll, a real truly doll, gorgeous in rose color and white lace, with a broad sash of real ribbon not faded a bit, was put into her hands, her rapture could find no words beyond her favorite exclamation, "My land!"

The things kept "comin' and a comin'"—a big red apple, an orange, a delightful little frosted cake, then a big slice with raisins in it, and finally a bag of candy,—everything, same as all the other children had. Wasn't this grand?

But Phely had no high-flown ideas of taking her treasures home to divide with the other six who hadn't any Christmas—not she! Realizing that the only way to have her cake was to eat it, she promptly disposed of it, with keen appreciation. "They little cakes wan't made to divide," she meditated comfortably; and the raisin cake followed suit, and finally the candy. Thus fortified, she concluded to take home the apple and orange, shrewdly considering that she could secure various favors from the twins in lieu thereof.

She wasn't half ready to have the evening end, but of course it did, all too soon, like all wonderful, beautiful things. Phely lingered until almost all the congregation had disappeared; and Miss Lovett, smiling at the emphatic "Yas'm" that answered her inquiry, "Had a good time, Ophelia?" had moved away to speak to some of the other ladies who still remained; but at last the child roused herself to go.

"My land!" she said once more, pausing for a last look in the doorway, her precious doll clutched tightly in her arms.

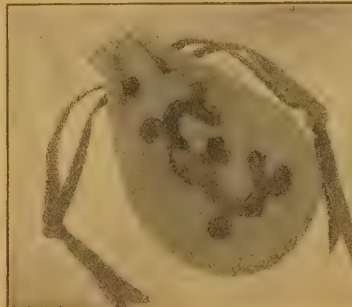
"My land! They twins won't never see the beat o' this!" and vanished in the starlit night.

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## Twilight Memories.

BY MARY ELIA LAWRENCE

An aged grandsire lean and bent,  
Smoked his loved pipe in calm content,  
His placid features lined with care,  
Were crowned with silvery flowing hair,  
While on a rusty old straw hat,  
His wrinkled hands drummed a light rat  
tat,  
As he watched his fair granddaughter  
Jane  
Bidding her love adieu in the lane,  
Then turn to the porch with a softened  
air,  
Leaning beside his high-backed chair.  
The sweet eyes shaded mid curls of gold,  
Disclosed a secret as yet untold,  
Carrying him back to a dear passed June,  
When his heart was singing the same  
love-tune,  
And the maid whose gentle eyes were  
lowered,  
Remsembled the one he had then adored,  
Her grandmother gone to her home  
above,  
Who had made his life a song of love.  
A kiss pressed lightly upon his brow,  
"Of what are you dreaming grandpa now?  
You were far away I know by your smile,  
Let your little Jennie rest here while  
You tell of that sacred long ago,  
Which hovers near in the sunset's glow,  
Does its crimson rays bring that loved  
past near,  
When your heart was young? please tell  
me dear."  
But the old man shook his head in doubt,  
Then raised his eyes as if about  
To speak, then sighed, then quickly  
paused  
With, "Times ain't now as they used to  
was,  
When I see a boy we had to work,  
It didn't do them days to shirk,  
We had to plow, and sow, and reap,  
And wear plain homespun clothes, t' were  
cheap.  
While now your beaux all dress so nice,  
Their shoes must be the highest price,  
Their clothes cut, sure, the latest style,  
And mustache waxed to match their  
smile,  
While from their pay, 't must cost a  
sight  
To purchase nosegays every night.  
Now a paper bag of sugar plums,  
My Sally thought was worth her thumbs,  
And I loved your grandma just the same  
As you do your Adolphus, Jane.  
She always wore a modest print,  
With not a ribbon fine to hint  
That she expected to receive  
Her beau on that particular eve.  
Nor was she crinkling paper flowers,  
A wasting busy honest hours.  
She had to weave the family linen,  
And do the daily household spinning.  
But when she'd hear my well-known rap,  
She'd rise with blushes right on tap,  
To courtesy low with modest grace,  
(I longed to kiss her dimpled face.)  
Then when her parents would retire,  
We'd draw our chairs close to the fire,  
And feast on cider, nuts and fruit,  
While forest owls would blithely hoot,  
Well one night we were popping corn,  
And I popped too, as sure's your born,  
For Sally dear did look so fine,  
And Jane, she promised to be mine,  
Oh life was rich and 'faintly' sweet,"  
Then gazing upward, did he meet  
The soul of her who seemed so near  
In thoughts of love, and memories dear?  
A silence fell between the pair,  
The songs of twilight filled the air,  
And bending o'er his cushioned seat,  
The dear old man was fast asleep.  
She raised her gentle face so fair,  
To find her lover by her chair  
A whispering low that tale so old,  
Yet ever new to hearts untold,  
And rising slowly o'er their home,  
The moon a silent witness shone.

## Gems of Thought

Keep a certain end in view.

From the Latin.

All Sunshine makes the desert.

Arab Proverb.

The only way to have a friend is to be  
one.

Emerson.

To please, one must make up his mind  
to be taught many things which he al-  
ready knows, by people who do not  
know them.

Chamfort.

Every man desires to live long, but no  
man would be old.

Swift.

He is a wise man who wastes no energy  
on pursuits for which he is not fitted.

Gladstone.

The man who can be nothing but serious,  
or nothing but merry, is but half  
a man.

Leigh Hunt.

If we show the Lord's death at com-  
munion, we must show the Lord's life in  
the world.

Maltbie D. Babcock.

Punctuality is the stern virtue of men  
of business and the graceful courtesy of  
princess.

Bulwer.

Do the duty which lieth nearest to  
thee. Thy second duty will already have  
become clearer.

Carlyle.

One day! Remember whose and how  
short it is. One day with life and heart  
is more than time enough to find a world.

Lowell.

One of the most wonderful things in  
nature is a glance of the eye; it trans-  
cends speech; it is the bodily symbol of  
identity.

Emerson.

No one can be perfectly free till all  
are free; no one can be perfectly moral  
until all are moral; no one can be per-  
fectly happy till all are happy.

Spencer.

It is not healthy to dwell on one's own  
feelings and conduct, but only to try and  
live more faithfully and lovingly every  
fresh day.

George Eliot.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
Are more felt than up in heaven;  
There is no place where earth's failings  
Have such kindly judgments given.

Farther Faber.

Give us courage and quiety and the  
quiet mind. Give us to awake with  
smiles. Give us to labor smiling. Give us  
health, food, bright weather, and  
light hearts.

Robert Louis Stevenson.

Whoever can express himself with the  
full force of unconscious sincerity will be  
found to have uttered something ideal  
and universal.

James Russell Lowell.

With good luck one can accomplish  
anything, but good luck is just one of  
the things that cannot be arranged for,  
even by the cleverest people.

Frankfort Moore.

"Our common mother rests and sings,  
Like Ruth among her garnered sheaves;  
Her lap is full of goodly things,  
Her brow is crowned with autumn  
leaves."

Slow in forming, swift in acting; slow  
in the making, swift in the working;  
slow to the summit, swift down the  
other slope; it is the way of nature and  
the way of the human mind.

Anthony Hope.

—Carve the face from within, not dress  
it from without. Within lies the robing-  
room, the sculptor's workshop. For  
whoever would be fairer, illumination  
must begin in the soul; the face catches  
the glow only from that side.

W. C. Gannett.

The railway companies in Switzerland  
have determined that for the future all  
children under two feet one inch in  
height will be passed at half fare, and  
those above, whatever their ages may be,  
will be treated exactly as adults. At  
each station, near the booking-office, a  
measuring machine is to be fixed, and  
whenever a child applies for a half-fare  
ticket it will be invited to stand under  
the scale.

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ing and at the same time  
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ed. LIDA J. JENNINGS,  
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## The Vera Cruz Road.

The first great commercial highway in America, and for more than three centuries incomparably the most important, was that romantic calzada or "shod" mule path from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico, says Octobere McClure's. This is not forgetting the military roads of the Incas, which the romantic historian (who never saw them) invariably compares with the great Roman highways—to which they are about as comparable as a Boston alley to Pennsylvania Avenue. They were extraordinary work for aborigines, and greatly facilitated the remarkable operations which distinguished the Incas as the only American Indians that ever made what in sober language can be called a military campaign; but they were merely improved trails for the passage of the llama; and while subject to much traffic, they had no commercial rating which we can count.

The Vera Cruz road (first laid out by Cortez in 1522, and improved in later days to the tune of \$3,000,000) was a more or less stone paved highway nearly 100 leagues long, from the seahoard to the capital, which, for three and a half centuries, was the largest city in all the Western hemisphere; and over its rough meanderings for that long span of time, potted up and down a commerce so vast in value as to seem incredible to any "American" generation except this present one. Down its declivity from the Tierra Fria of the great plateau to the pestilential Tierra Caliente toiled the enormous revenues to which the output of the bonanzas of Zacatecas, Guanajuato, and other silver mines swelled the royal quintas (fifths); besides the vast riches of indigo, sugar, cochineal, sarsaparilla and jalap from Mexico, the cacao of Peru and Equador, the copper of Coquimbo, and the silks and spices of China and the Philippines (from the "Acapulco ship"). There are reasonably well known railroads in the United States which to-day do not haul half so much value in freight in a year as yearly shuffled down the Vera Cruz calzada 300 years ago.

## The Youngest "Real Daughter"

Brookline, Mass., boasts the youngest "real" daughter of the American Revolution. She is Mrs. Victoria Rockwell Blanchard and is only sixty-four years old. Mrs. Blanchard was the daughter of her father's third wife, and her father was eighty-five years old when she was born. Her father was Jeremiah Rockwell and her mother Abilene Stearns. Her father enlisted when he was only nineteen, at Lanesboro, Mass., and served at Bunker Hill, Dorchester Heights and Saratoga. He had twenty children, including the seven he adopted on his marriage to a widow, his second wife.

Mrs. Blanchard remembers her father well, as she was eleven when he died. She recalls the stories he used to tell her of the Revolution.

She is a member of Marcy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at Springfield, Mass. She has a brother, Cyrus S. Rockwell of East Dickinson, N. Y., who is the youngest living "real" son of the Revolution.

New York Tribune.

## Something of a Concession.

"Mordecai," said his wife, "did you forget to register? You are a perfect numskull!"

"I am glad, my dear," responded Mr. Meekus, blandly, "that at last you have discovered I am perfect in something."

## Her First Concern.

Disturbed by the kiss of the magic prince, the sleeping beauty awoke.

"Dear me!" she said, "I just know my hair is a perfect sight!"

## Self Evident.

It seems hardly worth while for the Mayor of Chicago to talk of controlling the street car lines when he can't even control the streets. Philadelphia Press.

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## He Collapsed.

A somewhat elderly gentleman, with a merry twinkle in his eye, went into a hairdresser's the other day to have his hair cut.

"Excuse me, sir," said the hairdresser, as he began operations, "but your hair is very coarse."

"Of course!" ejaculated the gentleman. The hairdresser looked rather puzzled, and said: "I mean it won't lie straight, sir."

"No; you see it can't lie straight, or even tell the truth, because it can't talk," smiled the gentleman.

The hairdresser, who began to suspect that he was being played with, felt mad, and said, abruptly: "Bear's grease?"

"Oh, yes," exclaimed the gentleman; "it bears grease, or oil, or fat of any description; in fact, I could say it would bear anything, or it wouldn't have borne your remarks about it."

London Tit-Bits.

## A Scene in the Wheat Belt.

One square mile of wheat. Ever see it? Transcontinental trains used to stop in the Smoky Hill valley of Kansas to allow passengers a view of such a wonder. It realized all the travelers' dreams of agricultural splendor. Hundreds of such visions now mark the great grain area of the plains—but their beauty is none the less. Six hundred and forty acres of wealth; \$6,000 profit—perhaps more! It shimmered beneath the perfect opalescent blue of the sky, the tall straws bending with their weight of grain. Standing on the seat of the reaper one might see in the distance a glimmer of green pastures, and catch glimpses of rustling fields of corn—but here was the heart of summer.

C. M. Harger in Scribner's.

## The Heroism of Daily Life.

When we speak of those who dare death for duty's sake, who sacrifice life in service, our first thought is of our country's flag and of the roar of battle on land or sea; the heroism of the common service round us is so familiar that we scarcely think of it as heroism.

We travel with all the speed steam can give us, along our iron roads, trusting calmly to the skill and faithfulness of men whom we have never seen. We believe that they will hold their posts and give their lives, if need be, for our safety. We send for our family physician, and do not doubt that, however perilous the contagion, he will answer our call. We watch our firemen in their mad dash at the sound of the alarm, and we never question whether a thought of personal safety will hold them back from any effort to save life and property. Even the slender young teacher who shows us the working of the "fire drill" in the great school building, expects, and is expected, to stand quietly in her place, should danger arise, until all under her charge are safe.

Faithfulness before safety, duty before life, is the teaching reiterated everywhere and it is because of this—because common heroism is so very common—that our country can turn in its hour of need to a volunteer soldiery that does not know how to fail.

## Would Work a Hardship.

The eminent investigators were about to discover the microbe of crime. "Don't do that, gentlemen, for heaven's sake!" instantly exclaimed the great army of detectives, policemen, wardens, jailers, turnkeys and criminal lawyers. "What will we do for a living?"

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## Games After Dinner.

### THE MENU.

1. Soup—Toe not found on man or beast—Tomato.
2. Fish—A unit of measurement—Perch.
3. Roast—A lean wife—Spare rib.
4. Vegetable—The result of pressure—Squash.
5. Game—Timber and the herald of the dawn—Woodcock.
6. Salad—He who fights the Japanese—Russian.
7. Pudding—An aborigine—Indian.
8. Cake—A tropical sea plant—Sponge.
9. Fruit—To waste away, and Eve's temptation—Pineapple.
10. Wine—A part of the foot and a letter—Tokay.

When is it easy to read in the woods? When autumn turns the leaves.

Why are the Western prairies flat? Because the sun sets on them every night.

Which is the largest room in the world? Room for improvement.

When is a cup like a cat? When you're teasin' it.

Why is it dangerous to walk abroad in the springtime? Because the grass is putting forth blades, every flower has a pistil, the trees are shooting and the bulrush is out.

Why is a washerwoman the greatest traveler on record? Because she crosses the line and goes from pole, to pole.

Why is sympathy like blind man's buff? Because it is a fellow feeling for a fellow being.

If you throw a white stone in the Red sea what will it become? Wet.

Why is a cat on a steeple like a ball? Because she looks round.

Why was Eve not afraid of the measles? Because she'd Adam.

Did Adam think 'Eve High or Low church? He thought her Eve-angelical.

Why are horses in cold weather like meddlesome gossips. They bear idle tails (tales.)

Why is a dandy like the cassia-tree? The bark is worth more than the body.

What is the difference between a duck that has one wing and one that has two? Merely a difference of opinion (a pinion.)

## Grandma's Mistake.

Poor Grandma! I do hate to tell her, And yet it does seem very queer; She's lived so much longer than I have, And I—why, I've known it a year! Even Alice begins to look doubtful, And she is so babyish, too, And mamma slyly laughs at the nonsense, But Grandma believes it is true.

Poor Grandma! I do hate to tell her! But some day, of course, she'll find out; And then she will laugh to remember What once she was puzzled about. But as for that beautiful work box She laid with such care on the shelf, How can she think Santa Claus brought it? I made the thing for her myself.

Sel.

## Our Strange Language.

When the English tongue we speak, Why is "break" not rimed with "freak"? Will you tell me why it's true We say "sew" but likewise "few"; And the maker of a verse Can not cap his "horse" with "worse"? "Beard" sounds not the same as "heard"; "Cord" is different from "word"; "Cow" is cow, but—"low" is low; "Shoe" is never rimed with "foe"; Think of "hose" and "dose" and "lose"; And of "goose" and yet of "chose." Think of "comb" and "tomb" and "bomb"; "Doll" and "roll" and "home" and "some," And since "pay" is rimed with "say," Why not "paid" with "said" I pray? We have "blood" and "food" and "good"; "Mould" is not pronounced like "could"; Wherefore "done," but "gone" and "lone"? Is there any reason known? And in short, it seems to me, Sound and letters disagree.

London Tit-Bits.

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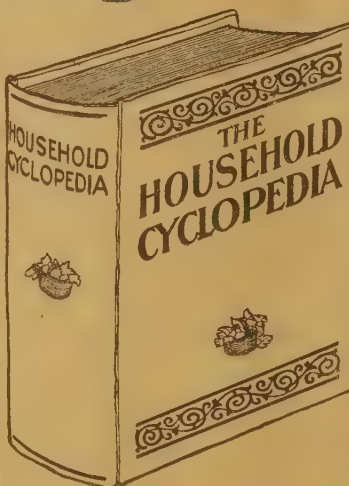
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## Mother's Meeting

(Continued from page sixteen)

divorce. So many are too obstinate to alter their views.

God is enough! Though, who in hope and fear Toilst through desert sands of life, sore tried, Climb trustful over death's black ridge; for near The bright wells shine. Thou wilt be satisfied, God doth suffice! Oh thou, the patient one, Who putt'st faith in Him, and none beside, Bear yet thy load; under the setting sun The glad tents gleam. Thou wilt be satisfied.

—From "Pearls of the Faith."

## Young Mothers.

Ere I forget let me insert a word concerning the plan I have previously advised for home made knit bands of superior quality. In buying the hose from which you are to manufacture these, ask for the extra large or "outsize" hose for ladies. I prefer a silk or silk and wool or linen (lisle) weave because the skin of infants is exquisitely tender and I know that much of the "crossness" and "nerves" of babies is due to prickly weaves which our hardened flesh does not note. On removal of these garments a babe will act delighted and fall asleep happily. In cutting these bands allow six inches. Do not turn the edges to hem them but with silk embroidery twist overcast closely, catching up every stitch lest it ravel.

Not a few mothers write me about the patterns I sell! If you will re-read my ad and that of infant's patterns sold by Vick Publishing Co., you will note that I agree only to advise or commend certain patterns (and I now add, in asking my advice please inform me as to probable season of birth and a word as to finances or your desires in outfitting, whether for solid comfort only or to add many dainty and luxurious ideas) whereas the line of patterns illustrated in Vick's are for sale by them and should be purchased direct.

A large number of inquiries come for books I have reviewed in your interests, i. e., "Helpful Books for Mothers and Fathers." So many ask me "Do you sell these books? And what is the price?" No, dear readers, I do not sell any of these books but my aim is to cause Vick's columns to be of vital aid to you in suggesting some help for the sore problems of parenthood and if you write to inquire concerning addresses, price, etc., be sure to inclose a self-addressed postcard. I am seeking all the most helpful books on sex science including kindred branches of self-culture and whenever I find one possessing helpful ideas or written in inspiring language which appeals to the heart or the head of my mother readers I closely study its points of excellence for sake of my readers and then comes my "Review."

There are some books fit for my advanced readers, i. e., those who are thinkers along these serious life problems and desire to investigate the higher expressions of the sex-life as a power for good in the growth of the soul or self within us. These, in due time I shall review for you and urge upon you the grand possibilities of mutual agreement between man and wife in such a study, for such an aim mutually shared must purify and elevate the united lives and banish the demon of indifference so prone to arise when one or both think of the "ties" of marriage as chains, or of its "duties" as burdens.

"Simple milk, when serpents drink it, straightway into venom turns;  
And a fool who heareth counsel all the wisdom of it spurns."

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and before placing my famous "Perfect Vision" spectacles on the market for sale at their regular price of \$5 per set, I make you the following special offer, which will actually save you \$4 cash: Just write me and I will mail you my Perfect Home Eye Tester, free. Then when you return me the Eye Tester with your test, I will send you a complete five dollar family set of my famous "Perfect Vision" spectacles for only \$1 (which is an actual saving of \$4 to you), and this will include a pair of my handsome Rolled Gold spectacles absolutely free of charge. This set will last yourself and family a lifetime. With these famous "Perfect Vision" spectacles of mine you will be able to read the finest print just as easy as you ever did in your life, and I will return your dollar willingly if you *yourself* don't find them to be the finest you ever bought anywhere, at any price. Write now for my free Home Eye Tester. Address: **DR. HAUX SPECTACLE COMPANY, Haux Building, ST. LOUIS, MO.**

**I WANT AGENTS ALSO** And any one can easily earn as high as \$100, weekly selling my famous spectacles anywhere. My agents need no license as I furnish the necessary documents with an agent's outfit. (NOTE.—The above is the largest Mail Spectacle House in the United States and perfectly reliable)

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# POPULAR MUSIC

## Almost Given Away

WE were very fortunate this fall in purchasing a large supply of Popular Music, to be able to buy it at such a low price, that we can **almost give it away to our subscribers.** Do not confuse this music with old "out of date" stuff that is advertised for 10 cents a copy. A glance at the list below will convince anyone of its standard quality, and we consider it the greatest music bargain ever offered to our readers. Most of the selections have colored **Lithographed Title Pages** and all of it is full size and printed on calendered paper. Just the thing for either Organ or Piano.



You can not afford to be without this popular music when it can be had on such remarkably favorable terms. Our only object in making this offer is to induce new subscriptions to Vick's Family Magazine which is one of the best magazines published, and is just what its name suggests—a magazine for every member of the family. Vick's is authority on the cultivation and care of flowers, contains departments on Home Dress-making, Poultry, the Garden Farm Notes, Small Fruits, a Children's Corner, Mother's Meeting, Heart to Heart Talks, and suggestions from the thousands of homemakers who read Vick's Magazine, besides short and continued stories, short poems, etc. We aim to give the readers of Vick's, helps and suggestions which are timely, practical and helpful, and are striving to make each issue of the magazine better than the preceding one.

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Grand Concert Polka  
Hunters March  
One Little Flower  
Cascadilla Waltzes  
Bright Star Waltz  
Knights Templars Grand March  
Valse Bleue

### VOCAL

I'll Meet Thee at the Eastern Gate  
Don't Be Sad Little Sweetheart  
I Was Dreaming Darling Kathleen  
Love's Request  
Flagg of Green  
Stay and Be an Answer to Their Prayers  
When We Were Twenty-one  
My Sunny Southern Home  
When the Corn is Waxed Annie Dear

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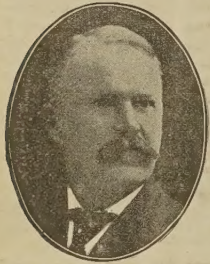
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# CHRISTIAN HERALD

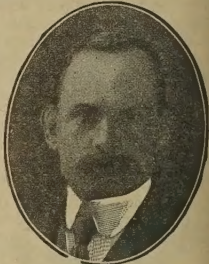
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G. A. WARBURTON  
CONTRIBUTOR

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JOSEPH HOCKING  
EMINENT AUTHOR

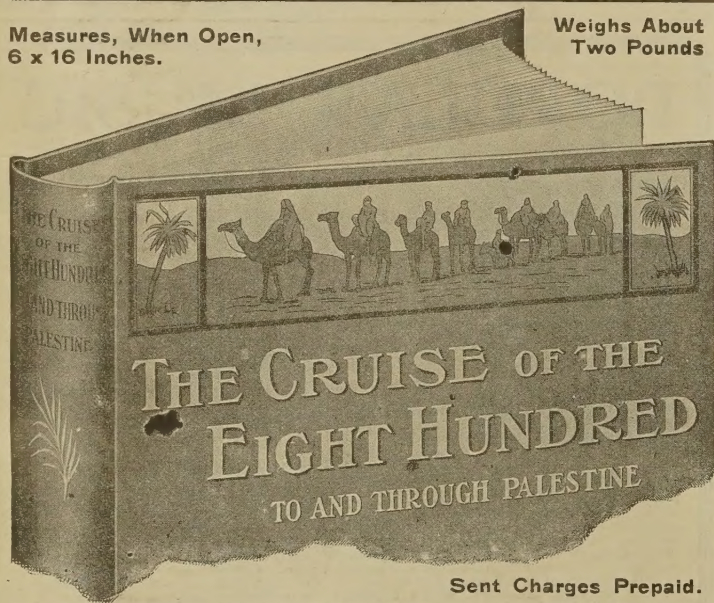
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Metropolitan and Rural Home.....	..25		
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Modern Priscilla.....	..50		
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Success.....	1.00		
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Success Magazine.....	1.00	My Price
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Or any magazine of Class A.....		
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Success Magazine.....	1.00	My Price
World's Work.....	3.00	\$3.25
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### Optic Nerve Trouble Cured.

Erie, Penn. Nov. 23, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—I have to inform you that all your instructions were followed as much as possible and in my humble opinion the eyes may be looked upon as healed, "omnis medela a Deo" of course. But next to God the Almighty, I owe the healing of my eyes to you, dear friend.



"The Most High hath created medicines out of the earth, and a wise man will not abhor them."  
 "My son, in thy sickness neglect not thyself, but pray to the Lord and he shall heal thee."  
 The doctor then is to be looked upon only as an instrument of God.

The only medicine I use now for the sight, is taking exercise out of doors and fresh water. Your method is to be praised highly. As far as I know, European doctors criticize sharply the American doctors for using the knife too much. You do not use the knife.

Now dear doctor, I thank you very much and may God reward you for what you have done for my sight. Very truly yours,  
 REV. E. FRANK, St. V. H.

### Noticed Improvement in Four Days.

Du Quoin, Ill., Oct. 9, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—When I began the use of your treatment, about the twentieth of June, my eyes were very bad from optic nerve trouble. I could see to read or write but very little. If I tried to look at a paper or anything else it seemed as though a thin dark veil would fall down over my sight and prevent me from seeing; but after I began your treatment I could tell the improvement in about 4 days, and my eyes have kept on improving until now I can see as well as ever. I can see to read the papers and books now without glasses, and am very thankful that I wrote you concerning my eyes, for I believe I would have gone blind if I had not used your remedies.  
 M. C. DRY.



### Had Suffered Five Years.

Fairland, Ill., Nov. 27, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—I was afflicted with granulated eyelids and catarrhal conjunctivitis for five or six years. I have now taken 3 months' treatment and my eyes are better than they have been for years and I no longer need glasses.  
 I wish to thank you for what you have done for me and will gladly recommend your Dissolvent Treatment to be what you say it is.  
 Yours very truly,  
 MISS BLANCHIE BYKER



### Had Granulated Eyelids Eight Years.

Luther, Mich., Oct. 10, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—I want to thank God I ever found your ad. I had suffered so much from granulations for eight years. I had to give up reading and sewing and my housework was not half done. I had lost power to raise my eyelids, and a lump as large as a wheat kernel came in the inner corner of my left eye. After four months' treatment I am all right. I see to do my own work without glasses and people remark about the appearance of my eyes.  
 MRS. ISAAC WOLFE.



### Another Illinois Case.

Herbert, Ill., Nov. 23, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—Last March my right eye went out all at once. I could not tell what was the trouble with it. They grated raw potato and put on it and I thought it would be all right in the morning, but when I got up I found it was blind. I then went to Rockford to see one of the best oculists. He examined my eye thoroughly and could not tell what was the matter with it. He gave me medicine to take. I took it for two weeks and did not receive any benefit from it. Then I wrote to you giving you all the particulars. You wrote at once and told me it was paralysis of the optic nerve and opacity, and that you could cure me. So I wrote at once and you sent me your Dissolvent Treatment. I used it four months and I could see as well with that eye as I could with the well one. I still sent for one more month's treatment, but do not think I needed it. My eye is well now and I can see to thread a fine needle. I am 73. I am so very thankful, for you have saved my eye.  
 MRS. NANCY BOOKER.

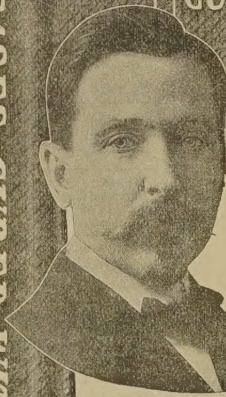


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And it proves the overwhelming superiority and certainty of my mild treatment as against the dangers and pain of the knife and burning caustics advised by most physicians and specialists. For it tells how I have saved thousands from total blindness, restored perfect sight, treating them in their own homes at small expense.

And it contains one hundred letters with pictures of the writers from patients whom I have cured. These people were cured because they profited by the same offer which I am making to you. They wrote to me when I offered them my help.

If you are afflicted with any eye trouble or if you have a relative or friend who is, it is your plain duty to write me. The edition of this book is limited, so write me now before they are all gone.

*A. M. Oneal*

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Chicago, Dec., 1905.

**DR. OREN ONEAL**  
 Suite 931, 52 Dearborn St., CHICAGO

### Had Suffered All Kinds of Pain.

Chapin, Ill., Nov. 14, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—I want to thank you for the relief your treatment has given me. As I suffered great pain in my head and eyes and all kinds of headaches, for which I could get no relief. I thought I would try your treatment. After using it, I can now read and sew without glasses. Before using your treatment, my sight was failing fast from congested optic nerve. I could not tell one person from another at a distance of 30 feet. The pain in my head would be so severe after being out driving that I could not sleep or rest for pain in my head all night. After taking your treatment I can drive 12 miles and return the same day without headache or pain and I rest all night. For which I wish to thank you and your Dissolvent Treatment.



MRS. HENRY ECKHOFF,  
 Atrophy of Optic Nerve and Cataract

Germantown, Pa.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—Four years ago my sight began to fail me in both eyes. A mist came over them. I treated with several oculists for three years for atrophy of the optic nerve and none seemed to help me. One told me that the optic nerve was dead. I went to Wilkes Eye Hospital, Philadelphia. They told me it was useless to spend any more money, for I had cataract on both eyes and I would have to wait until they became ripe. After the first few months of your home treatment, my vision commenced to improve, and, thank God, I can now say I am in a new world, use no glasses except for close reading and fine work.



421 Mechanic St. JOHN B. HURST.

### Suffered Four Years—Cured in One Month

Clyde, New York, Oct. 26, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—I had been troubled with granulated eyelids and optic nerve disease for three or four years. I tried our family physician and others for a year or more to no purpose. Hearing of your treatment, I was determined to try it at least. I had used it a few times when I saw a change for the better, and after a month I call my eyes well—no more discharge or itching or gumming up. I can truthfully and conscientiously say I could recommend it to all who may be afflicted with any disease of the eyes. I shall use all my efforts in behalf of your treatment from a desire to help all the afflicted.



MRS. W. H. VANDERCOOK.

### A Noted Hunter Testifies.

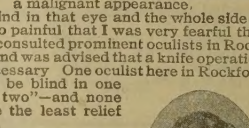
Gardner, Oregon, Oct. 18, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—I am thankful that your Dissolvent Treatment has cured my eyes of catarrhal conjunctivitis and congested optic nerve. I was nearly blind before I commenced the treatment; so bad I could not tell a horse from a cow 50 yards away. Now I can see to read, or shoot a deer a quarter of a mile. I will send you my picture.



THOS. J. BURROUGHS.

### Mrs. Woodruff's Letter.

Rockford, Ill., Nov. 23, 1905.  
**Dr. Oren Oneal**—A year ago last March a growth appeared behind and under the right eye, pushing the eyeball out of the socket and presenting an angry inflamed appearance. The lower eye became everted and altogether it presented a malignant appearance.



I was almost blind in that eye and the whole side of my face became so painful that I was very fearful that it was a cancer. I consulted prominent oculists in Rockford and Chicago and was advised that a knife operation was absolutely necessary. One oculist here in Rockford declared I "would be blind in one year and dead in two"—and none of them gave me the least relief or encouragement.

I remember that you regarded my case as so serious that you would make no promises whatever. I decided however, to try your treatment and the result has been most gratifying. The growth has been entirely absorbed by your wonderful remedies, so that the eye today presents a perfectly normal appearance, and the sight of both eyes is now normal. This I consider very remarkable considering my age, which is past eighty.

MRS. AUGUSTA A. WOODRUFF.

